

Technology Bond Update – May 2016

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First of all, thank you to the entire Grand Blanc Schools family for supporting our November 2015, Technology Bond! This \$32 million investment in teaching and learning over a seven year period will help prepare our students for a future that many of us cannot even imagine. It has been a busy six months since the election and this article will highlight many of the initiatives that are underway as a result of your support.

District Technology Advisory Team Leading the Way

Many of the dreams for this technology bond were started in our District Technology Advisory Team. (DTAT) This group has representatives from all of our schools including teachers, principals, library staff, technology staff, and curriculum/department chairs. This group, developed four years ago, has dreamers and leaders from the instructional and technology sides. As a district we feel it is extremely important for our curriculum to drive technology, rather than just having technology for technology's sake. Because of this, our DTAT group has visited numerous progressive K-12 school districts and attended local and state technology conferences to gather input on what works the best as far as incorporating technology into instruction. This group has been extremely helpful in advising and making decisions related to technology and curriculum so we don't lose touch with the classroom teachers and students.

Transformation Orientation Sessions Beginning Summer 2016

Professional development is one of the most important aspects of this bond implementation. Our community members have told us that, our teachers have told us that, and our consultants have expressed the importance of this to our district. As part of our teacher training we will be using four middle school blended learning labs being built this summer (See article below) to conduct the beginning sessions of a program provided by our technology consultants called "Transformation Orientation." This two day training will work with staff to help them with strategies to create a student-led learning environment using technology to:

- Provide current content that fits the student's learning style
- Collect real time data to allow teachers to differentiate
- Deliver instruction that defies the sit and get model
- Develop meaningful relationships that motivate students to learn.

In July and August, approximately 20% of our staff will go through the Transformation Orientation program, followed by 40% in 2017, and the final 40% in 2018. In addition to the Transformation Orientation, there will be several other training opportunities for our staff including ongoing coaching, summer boot camps, a session designed specifically for our administrators, and two programs called Infusion and Endorsement which will train our most tech savvy staff to help others across the district as we continue to move forward and innovate in the years to come.

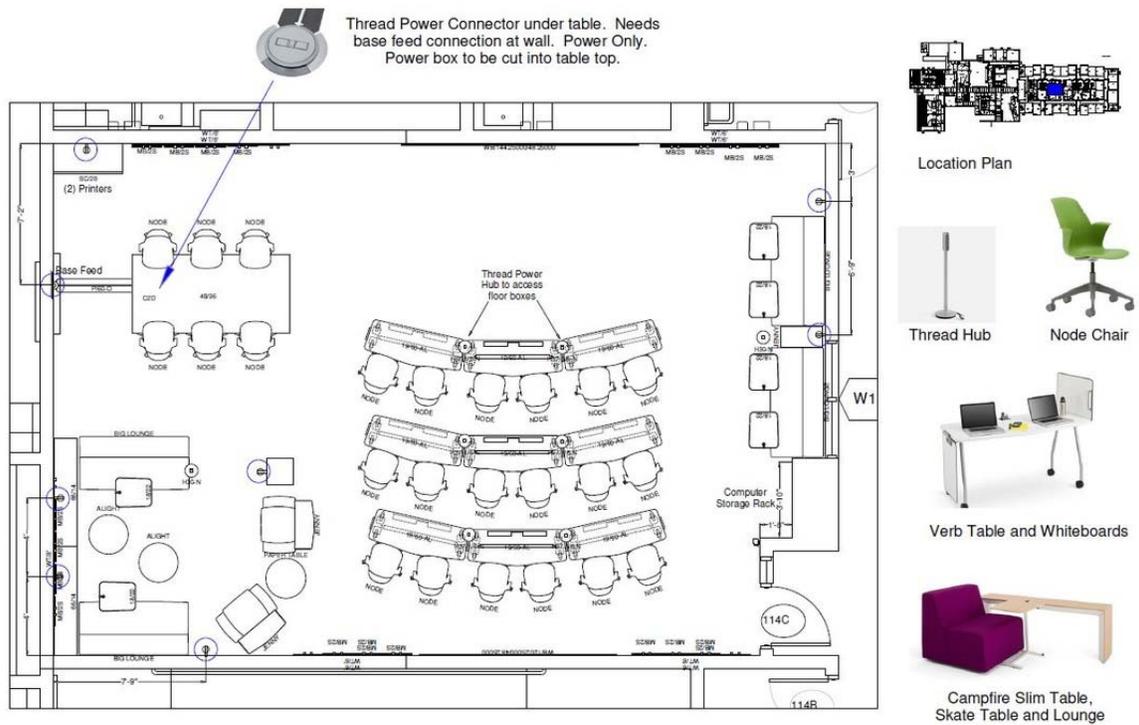
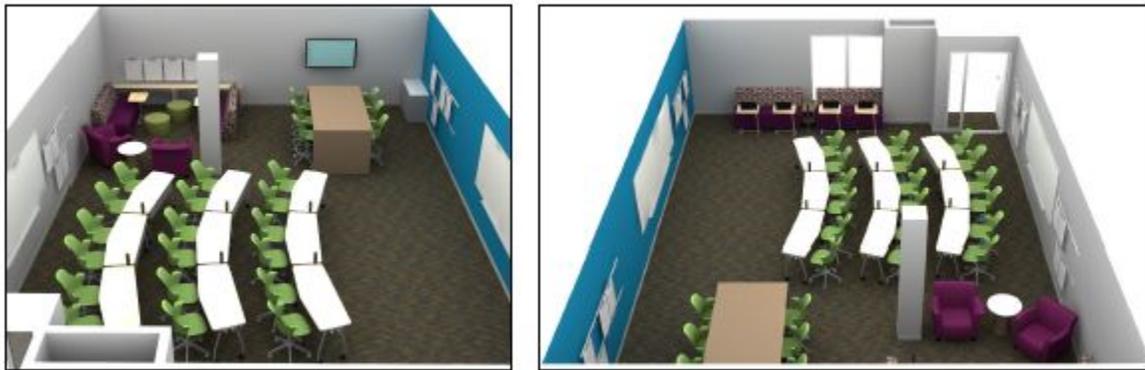
Summer 2016 Bond Projects

Network Fiber and Switches

This summer will be extremely busy in the technology department at Grand Blanc Community Schools. Grand Blanc Schools has selected Weinstein Electric out of Flint, Michigan, to complete our fiber project. All district fiber within buildings, and some between buildings will be replaced between now and the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. In addition Presidio Corporation out of Wixom, Michigan, has been selected to complete our Cisco Switch Project. Every switch in the district will be replaced to accommodate a new 10GB network. This fiber and switch project will essentially allow for more devices and more information flow across the district. Right now our network is bogged down and frequently malfunctions due to the increased burden over the years. This project will essentially take us from a one lane highway to a 10 lane highway as far as network traffic.

Blended Learning Labs

School systems for the most part were set-up during the Industrial Age and have remained pretty much unchanged since that time. Imagine if General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler were still running things the way they did in the early 1900's. If they never innovated, never collaborated, never made any changes or improvements, the cars we drive would look a whole lot different today. Education is no different. Our students are different, times have changed, and we are in the Technology age. Learning will look different moving forward. Grand Blanc Community Schools believes that being at the forefront of this educational revolution will only help our students. Preparing our students with real world experiences, opportunities for communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity are key to their success. The Blended Lab is the epicenter of change in our district. These rooms will be used for our Transformation Orientation sessions this summer and during the school year by our students. The blended learning labs will be flexible in nature and accommodate changing technologies over the years to come. Understanding that our students are different, our labs, libraries and classrooms will need to look different moving forward.



New Blended Learning Labs at Grand Blanc East and West Middle Schools

Device Pilots

This fall we will begin numerous classroom 2:1 and 1:1 device pilot programs. At the K-2 level we will be piloting 2:1 iPads and Touchscreen Chromebooks in three classrooms. The 2:1 pilot means there will be a device available for every two students. At the K-2 level the devices will stay in the classroom. At the 3-5 level, we will be piloting 1:1 take home programs in three 3-4 classrooms and 1:1 take home for the entire fifth grade student body. At the middle school level we will be piloting 1:1 take home on two teams (one at each middle school) consisting of 6-8th grade students. Finally, a handful of high school teachers will be piloting 1:1 take home devices with one section of their classes. The device of choice for the 3-12 level will be the Chromebook.

Other Summer/Fall Projects

- *High School Yearbook Equipment Update*
- *High School Banner Lab / Equipment Update*
- *Elementary Staff Desktop Replacement*
- *Projector Pilots*
- *Security Upgrades at the Elementary Level*
- *Middle School Video Production Equipment Updates*
- *Network Wiring and Electrical Improvements*

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