

Fraser Schools goes high tech

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FRASER — Less paper and easier access to information are two bonuses to a big change the district made this year by going wireless.

This move was one of the technology upgrades made possible by district voters approving a bond issue last February.

While the district has said that it has a focus on making sure the students have access to 21st century tools, this change is one way it is making that goal a reality.

“Not only do we have people connecting throughout the district, but the high school is offering more than a dozen hybrid courses in which students learn in a blended online and face-to-face classroom format,” said Kris Young, director of

educational technology and information systems, in a press release.

Each student has access to an email address, instant messenger and file sharing, plus Microsoft programs, including PowerPoint for presentations and Word for writing papers.

“This means that every student does not need to own Microsoft Office, but rather, they can do their homework anywhere and can access what they need on any device.”

The school board made use of the new wireless system for the first time during its regular meeting Oct. 10. They commented that they were attempting to go paperless.

“This is our first school meeting with our iPads, so we’re still kind of gearing up here,” Board Vice President Gerry Gauthier said to the audience.

Staff have commented about the

ease with which the changes have helped with the day-to-day work in the schools, such as being able to use iPads during meetings.

“We have information at our fingertips. ... We are no longer confined to a desktop,” Salk Elementary Principal Denis Metty stated in a press release.

It has helped students, staff and the school board, but also the parents and others visiting the schools.

“Several of our parents have emailed us, letting us know how nice it has been for them personally to be able to access the wireless while attending extracurricular activities at the schools,” Young stated.

They are able to access the district’s wireless through a guest network.

“These are exciting times,” Young stated.