



What are Touch Panel TV's and why are We Getting Them?

April 2, 2019

What in the world are touch panel TVs?

Most people have heard of SmartBoards but believe it or not, that hardware is considered ancient by technology standards!

Each classroom in Seymour grades K-8 have Smartboards in them at the front of the room. These boards are interactive and collaborative. They allow the teacher to model, annotate and work over or alongside whatever is currently displayed on the teacher's computer screen, and allow for collaboration between students.

If we have SmartBoards why replace them?

These boards are approaching 8-10 years of age and thus coming to the end of their useful life. They have become an integral part of instruction and must be replaced. We have found that maintaining the bulbs, projectors, and modules in the SmartBoard are starting to exceed their actual value. Interactive TV's on the other hand require no bulb, and need almost no upkeep. In addition, they have a much longer lifespan.

How did we decide on the ViewSonic panels?

We put together a RFP (Request for Proposal) and solicited competitive bids to replace our SmartBoards with touch panel technology back in January and received bids from four different vendors pitching three different products. We asked for a demo of each product and placed the demo units in a teacher's classroom asking them to "put it through the paces" so we could be confident in our choice. The pricing that we got back from the winning bidder was very aggressive and even included a seven year warranty on all boards.

How did we pay for the replacement of these boards?

Working in conjunction with the First Selectman's Office, Board of Finance, and Board of Selectmen we were able to secure financing for these boards at rates that were much lower than the Board of Education would have been able to secure by itself. The Board of Education will utilize these extremely low rates and reimburse the town out of our normal operating budget over a five year period. This was truly a great example of Town Boards and Departments working together for the benefit of the entire town.

4-2-19

