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School board learns about new ICN Room

By Jennifer Nichols
NT Staff Writer

ATLANTIC – The Atlantic School Board got to see the new Iowa Communication Network (ICN) room at the high school Tuesday night.

Atlantic Superintendent Dr. Michael Amstein said Monday the new room is different because classes can now be broadcast across the state, not just from the ICN site to ICN site, but now from the ICN site to anywhere there is an internet connection and computer available. Amstein this will create some “unique instructional opportunities” for the school district.

The ICN is the country’s premier fiber-optic network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education and government officials say on the ICN website. The Network makes it possible

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District Technology Coordinator Roger Warne demonstrates technology used in the school district.
Photo by Jennifer Nichols

for Iowans, physically separated by location, to interact in an efficient, creative, and cost-effective manner. Through partnerships with education, medicine, the judicial system, government agencies, and the National

Guard, the Network brings live, full-motion video to over 700 classrooms around Iowa, located in schools, National Guard armories, libraries, hospitals, and federal and state government offices. ICN services include full-motion video, video over IP, voice, data, WAN connections, and high-speed Internet.

District Technology Coordinator, Roger Warne said Tuesday night the ICN room was moved to the high school from the middle school because it was a "central location and good traffic area." The room includes a smart board, projector, microphones and camera. Warne said one camera in the room is on the presenter, and another camera in the room is focused on the class. And "through sound recognition (when) someone is called on and they start speaking, one of the cameras will focus on them and switch over so there's a close up of them."

"This is the first classroom of its type in the state of Iowa," Amstein said Tuesday night. "I envision once we have this up and running there are going to be a number of school district wanting to come to Atlantic to see what's been put together here."

