

Dear School Board Members and Superintendent,

I am writing to express my confusion and concern regarding the district's apparent plan to reduce student access to screens by transitioning to carted devices in middle school while simultaneously proposing the purchase of 3,000 new Chromebooks. If I understand the agenda and have crunched numbers correctly, this purchase would provide many more devices than needed for the cart model and seems to contradict the very goals the district has agreed to pursue regarding student screen time.

The Screen Time Work Group invested considerable time, thought, and effort into developing recommendations intended to create a healthier, more intentional approach to technology use in our schools. One of the key recommendations was to move away from the one-to-one device model K-12, providing devices only when they are needed for specific educational purposes rather than making them a constant, default presence throughout the school day.

The intent was not simply to change the type of device students use. It was to change how and when technology is accessed.

The recommendations calls for devices to be used intentionally, with Chromebooks available through classroom carts when appropriate, rather than automatically assigned to each student to carry home, keep on their desks from class to class, or even use during lunch. This approach would allow teachers to make purposeful decisions about when screens enhance learning while creating more opportunities for students to engage with their peers, participate in hands-on activities, and take meaningful breaks from screens.

Purchasing 3,000 Chromebooks that effectively restore a one-to-one device model raises an important question: **If the district is committed to reducing unnecessary screen time, why are we investing in enough devices to maintain the very system the Screen Time Work Group recommended moving away from?**

Replacing middle school iPads with carted Chromebooks is a practical way to support instructional needs while honoring the work group's recommendations, not to mention, save money. A cart-based model would allow teachers to access technology when it serves a clear educational purpose without making individual devices a default expectation for every student, every class, and every part of the day.

I want to emphasize that the Screen Time Work Group did not arrive at its recommendations casually. Members worked diligently to consider the role of technology in student learning and the importance of establishing reasonable boundaries around its use. Those recommendations deserve to be taken seriously and reflected in the district's purchasing decisions and implementation plans.

I respectfully ask the board and superintendent to pause on tonight's vote, clarify how the proposed purchase of 3,000 Chromebooks aligns with the work group's recommendations, and to reconsider any plan that would reinstate a one-to-one device model in middle school.

Specifically, I urge the district to follow the recommendation to replace middle school iPads with carted Chromebooks, making devices available as needed and used intentionally rather than issuing one to every student by default.

If the district has committed to reducing unnecessary screen time, that commitment should be evident not only in its stated goals but also in its policies, practices, and budget decisions. The work group's recommendations provide a thoughtful path forward. I hope our elected leaders will honor the time and care invested in that process and ensure that its actions are consistent with the goals it has agreed to pursue.

Thank you for your time, your consideration. I look forward to hearing how the district intends to align its technology purchasing decisions with the Screen Time Work Group's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jack Voorhees