

Pleasantdale School District 107

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District 107's Strategic Blueprint is poised to guide our schools and students into the future. The Strategic Blueprint is the work of a committee of teachers, parents, community members, and students who set the vision and created action steps to move our schools from great to greater. Armed with the mission *to create a community of inspired learners* as our focus, we are eager to begin this important work. While approval of the Strategic Blueprint came this only month, we have already begun to complete our action steps. This executive summary outlines the administration's steps to achieve the goal: *Develop a refresh cycle for computers, LCD projectors, personal devices and other technologies*. Additionally, as technologies continue to evolve and our students come hungry for modern technologies, it is important that our schools keep pace. In this report, we will outline the problem that our district is facing in regards to teacher devices. We will also report on how our new device refresh cycle will have a positive impact on students and how this plan will be sustained over the years.

Background: Currently, the majority our teachers are working with devices that are between 3 and 8 years old. Many of our teacher devices have reached their end of life and have undergone many in-house repairs. Many of these devices no longer hold a charge and therefore cannot serve as portable devices as they must remain plugged in to function. The table below outlines the devices that are currently in service within our schools. It is important to note that 2014 was the last time staff devices were purchased. Many of our teachers are also required to use multiple devices because their daily use device is separate from the device used to control their Promethean Board. Two devices for the work of one is redundant and inefficient.

Additionally, the table below also outlines the need for the replacement of presentation technologies within each classroom. It is best practice in education to present material in multiple ways. That means our teachers are presenting material in both an aural and a visual manner. Our current presentation devices also limit presentation ability to the teacher only. It is one of our goals to allow for students to display work effortlessly. Currently many of our LCD projectors have reached their end of life, and the images projected are so faint that teachers are required to turn off the lights and draw the shades. Even in a darkened room, sometimes, the images can't be seen. Our refresh cycle includes installing new LCD projectors and making each classroom "Apple Ready." This will allow students and teachers to wirelessly project through an AppleTV.

Mission

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Table 1: Devices in service

	Device	Purchase Year	Number in Service	
			PES	PMS
Computing Devices	HP 6735b ¹	2008	26	0
	HP 4520	2010	20	3
	HP 4530	2011	5	13
	HP 440	2014	0	16
	MacBook Air	2015-17	14	11
	TOTAL		39	43
Projecting Devices	Promethean	2010	8	3
	Epson (various)	2005 - 2009	5	1
	Epson (New)	2015 - 2017	11	23
	Total		21	27

Priorities: As we considered a device replacement cycle, we looked to provide teachers with better functioning devices as well as improve the student experience. We set the below priorities as we developed the cycle and the plans to upgrade classroom equipment.

1. One Main Device: Teachers should be able to do their work with a single device. That means that they are able to project, print, correspond via email, and use internet tools on a single device.
2. Enhance Teaching/Learning: The proposed refresh cycle would allow teachers to project from their device wirelessly and would also allow students to wirelessly connect to the projector. This teacher/student back-and-forth allows for the development of more dynamic learning.
3. Technology Needs to Function Properly: Teachers should be able to walk into any classroom in the district and connect to projectors and other classroom technologies. Likewise teachers' laptops should function properly, be virus free, and hold a charge for the entire school day. In short, the technology needs to simply work.

¹ This device controls Promethean Boards

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4. Allow For Innovation: We have asked our teachers to be entrepreneurs in their classrooms. To do this, they need proper training to ensure a clear understanding of the technology. This all needs to happen before we put the technology in the kids' hands. To that end, we have created an Apple Boot Camp. Also, our teachers will receive their devices at least six-months prior to the students receiving theirs.
5. Make Use of our Network: Over the course of the 2016 summer, the district's wifi network was upgraded and bandwidth was improved. The devices that many of our staff are currently using are not able to make best use of this improved technology. Our plan provides staff devices that make full use of our new wifi network.

With these priorities in mind, we have created a refresh cycle that will have a meaningful impact on teaching and learning. It is our goal to ensure that our teachers have the tools they need to effectively instruct our students. The below plan allows us to accomplish that goal.

The Plan: Our plan calls for a responsible rollout of new technology for teachers and classrooms. As such, our aging devices will be replaced over a two year cycle. Teachers whose students will be receiving 1:1 devices will have priority in whether they receive a new device in year one or year two of our rollout. Additionally, we want to ensure that all devices currently in service are used until end of life. By 2018-19, all of our current devices will have reached the end of their useful life. Upon completion of this initial refresh (over the course of two years), we will then replace 25% of our teachers' devices annually. This plan allows the district to budget for technology purchases and rolls the devices out in a manner that allows us to adequately service devices.

On October 11, 2016, the facilities advisory team met to discuss facilities projects/priorities as well as technology purchases. Once the facilities advisory team approved these projects/purchases, the costs were added to our district budget. This budget was then discussed with the finance advisory team where costs were further scrutinized. The amount budgeted for the first year (2017-18) purchase of staff devices was \$61,000 and the amount budgeted for the second year (2018-19) purchase was \$46,000. After careful analysis, we project the actual cost of these purchases to be \$39,342 in 2017-18 and \$37,217 in 2018-19. You can see a detailed breakdown of costs in the table below.

	Number to Purchase	Price/Unit	Total Cost
2017-2018 (Year 1)			
MacBooks	18	\$929	\$16,722
MacBook Cases	18	\$14	\$252
iPad - Staff	25	\$374	\$9,350
iPad Case - Staff	25	\$20	\$500

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AppleTV	27	\$149	\$4,023
Epson 530	11	\$769	\$8,495
Grand Total	\$39,342		
2018-2019 (Year 2)			
MacBooks	28	\$929	\$26,012
MacBook Cases	28	\$14	\$392
iPad - Staff	10	\$374	\$3,740
iPad Case - Staff	10	\$20	\$200
AppleTV	10	\$149	\$1490
Epson 530	7	\$769	\$5,383
Grand Total	\$37,217		

Based on our careful analysis, the total (two year) cost of our refresh cycle is \$76,559 and comes in \$30,441 under the amount budgeted for this project.

Conclusion: The time has come to implement a financially responsible refresh cycle for our staff devices. The cycle outlined in this report ensures that we have taken a financially responsible approach while ensuring our staff has the tools they need to best instruct our students. This plan allows us to achieve our goals and makes improvement of the student experience a priority. The plan also allows us to make good on our promise to our community through our Strategic Blueprint action steps.

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