

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting December 11, 2012

Technology Advisory Committee

Board Goal: II. Teaching & Learning... In pursuit of excellence, the district will actively pursue, foster and support an advanced digital learning environment.

Purpose of Report: The purpose of this workshop item is to inform you of the recent work the district Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) has been engaged in regarding student computing devices (specifically tablet devices) and to make a recommendation to the board.

Objectives: The district TAC has been asked to:

- Evaluate new devices that are available
- Discuss current needs for our students in regards to student tablet devices
- Formulate a recommendation for the board whereby district and campus funds will be made available for the purchase of these devices

Operational Impact: The operational impact of this recommendation will fall primarily on the individual campus making the purchase. Campus principals will have discretion as to whether or not they choose to purchase student tablets. The available funding sources will broaden to include campus funds, allowing those campuses that desire to purchase these devices the flexibility to do so. The cost of each device will vary based on the type of device being purchased. No personnel needs are being included in this recommendation, however, this initiative underscores the need for increased technology integration support personnel, especially at elementary campuses. With the continuous addition of wifi devices, increased demands will be placed on our existing wireless infrastructure. It is important to routinely evaluate our current wifi usage and anticipate future needs.

Results: By allowing district/campus funds to be made available for student tablet devices, it is the committee's belief that this initiative will support essential 21st century skill areas: complex communication, new media literacy, creativity, collaborative learning, and self-directed learning. Tablet devices (like the iPad) can engender incredibly immersive and active learning environments and present unprecedented opportunities to develop personalized, student-centered learning. There are also consumption, curation, and creativity activities the iPad facilitates — as well as the student empowerment it inspires. Disadvantages to tablet devices include decreased management and security, increased potential for damage and theft, and generally have less processor power than a desktop computer.

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Other Options: Other options include:

- Not allowing the use of district funds to be used for student tablet devices (this is our current practice)
- Standardizing on one specific platform (for example, requiring campuses to only purchase Dell tablets or only purchase iPads)