



DATE: April 14, 2022

TITLE: Technology Services

TYPE: Information

PRESENTER: Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

BACKGROUND:

Technology Services designs, implements, and supports the technology infrastructure and resources in this district. This includes network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

Technology Advisory Team

- During this month's meeting we reviewed final information on APS AI Guidance and documentation of Technology and Digital Resource standards. Conversations in the Tech Advisory team contributed quite a bit to these final products, so this was a summary of the year's work. Additionally, we had a robust discussion around student technology fees, device damage, and fines. We discussed current practices and shared reflections. While this team did not have any recommendations for major changes to student fees and fines, they expressed a desire to get more data on device damage rates and costs. This will be an agenda item for our first 25-26 school year meeting.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- A major spring project is the selection and deployment of an Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) system, which is now a requirement of our Cyberinsurance. An EDR system is designed to monitor, detect, and respond to threats on end-user devices. It helps to guard against advanced cyber attacks. We have reviewed a wide variety of products and have narrowed our selection to two options. Next steps are to make the final selection and develop the deployment plan.
- Last week we opened up the yearly Digital Resource Approval form – this is a practice we use to make sure all of our apps and websites follow federal and state privacy and security requirements. Staff have until May 16 to submit a digital resource for approved use during the 25-26 school year. At the same time, we also shared our new Technology Hardware and Software Standards guidance to staff. This clearly outlines how technology is selected, purchased, and supported throughout the district.

District-wide MTSS & Packer Profile

- We have been hard at work with the Teaching and Learning department to develop district guidance for generative artificial intelligence – and we are soon ready to share that guidance with district staff. At the end of the month staff will receive communication around district AI guidance, and professional development will be offered at buildings this spring and in the fall. All of this guidance is aligned with current board policy, annual notifications, and state/federal law. This guidance will include:
 - The School Board Policies that inform the appropriate use of generative AI.
 - Information about authorized and prohibited uses, digital integrity, and AI ethics.
 - A governance strategy that provides specific guidance and examples around the appropriate use of AI in and out of the classroom, a classroom poster that can be used to communicate AI expectations to students, sample family communication, and sample student AI disclosures for assignments.

Excellence in Resource Management

- The end of 24-25 is fast approaching, and that means collection of student laptops for the summer and preparation for new deployment of staff and student devices in the fall. We are also planning with buildings and departments for new technology purchases for labs and programming. Our team has developed a new collection and summer storage/repair process that will hopefully save time and improve device tracking and prep work at all sites.
 - One change with collection this year is that seniors will not have the option to keep their device after graduation. While this has never been a guarantee, we have always tried to make it happen and were usually able to – summer of 2020 being an exception. Since Covid there has been an extreme scarcity of and rising costs for replacement parts. To account for this, a few years ago we stopped the practice of having 8th graders keep their devices. While we tried to keep the senior device plan alive as long as possible, we are this year seeing large price increases for both repair parts and the devices themselves. We want to ensure that our budget can sustain these changes and that means buying fewer new devices and using current student devices for longer than the four years originally planned. Seniors and families were notified of this change in the graduation info sent out a couple of weeks ago.
- This year we have made a concerted effort to improve processes for device recovery from un-enrolled students. Grade 5-12 buildings have made great strides in tracking departing students, collecting laptops, and communicating with families. In March of 2024, there were 103 devices from unenrolled students 5-12 that had not been recovered. This year, as of April 9, that number is 51. Our department continues to team with building leaders to improve processes, and we are very happy with the improvement and hope to see that number diminish even more in the future.