

Request that the Administration consider the option of leasing of Chromebooks and other technology on a multi-year basis and have one dollar purchase option at the conclusion of the lease.

Response: The district has engaged in several multi-year technology leases of Chromebooks using Massachusetts state procurement contract ITC49. ITC49 is a procurement tool that does not have a buyout option, the leased items must be returned to the lease vendor. The residual value of the devices are calculated into the cost of the lease, so if the district were able to purchase the devices for \$1, the cost of the lease would be higher. In addition, Chromebooks have an end of life for software updates of 6.5 years from the first date of manufacture. Leased Chromebooks may already be a year or two into this cycle and therefore most Chromebooks are reaching end of support by the end of the lease. A Chromebook that is not being updated has very little use to the district.

Request that the Administration provide a report as appropriate, regarding accommodations made for students who are physiologically sensitive to Wi-Fi communications.

Response: There are currently no students with documented physiological sensitivity to Wi-Fi communications.

Request that the Administration consider providing fully wired technology in the schools.

Response: All of the existing and new school buildings have the capability for full wiring. Currently, the trend in K12 education, higher ed, and the workplace is to provide mobile devices. But if that changes in the future, the district would have the ability to add wired connections in to classrooms.

Request that the Administration survey students to determine how many have computers in their homes.

Response: Two surveys were sent out. The first survey was for families and went home with every student. The survey was also translated. The paper responses were collected by schools in the month of September. The Responses are currently being put into a digital spreadsheet for analysis. It may take several months to enter and analyze the thousands of paper survey.

The second survey was given in school on Chromebook to all students in grades 2-12. We have approximately 11,000 responses out of 20,000 expected. We can give an update on the data when analyzed. The preliminary

results show a high usage of cell phones for homework. The graphic below shows a snapshot in time of the data collection.



54%

Students use a
cell phone for homework



Of the 74% of students who
have a device they can use
for homework...

50%

Share it with 2
or more people



26%

Do not have any device
for homework

*Based on data of 10,703 student respondents grades 2-12
October 4, 2019*

A techquity committee has been formed and will have a kick off meeting on October 7 with students, families, community members, and staff to start discussing these issues.

Request that the Administration provide a report in October 2019 as to the above mentioned motions and other recommendations in connection with the Technology Plan.

Response: The Technology Plan had 6 major components. The following will give an update of each component.

- Learning:
 - Scope and Sequence of curriculum was created for Digital Learning and Computer Science (DLCS) grades K-5 and 7-8. Elementary 4th enrichment teaches have formed a department and are being trained on delivering that curriculum. This curriculum also pulls in some of the elementary engineering standards.
 - A curriculum team is being assembled for DLCS grades 9-12
- Teaching:
 - 1 additional district technology coach was funded for a total of 4 out of the goal of 8. The four coaches are now split into quadrants and are the point person for digital

learning in that quadrant but also work in schools in which their expertise is needed. The district technology coaches work closely with the liaisons and coaches in the Office of Curriculum and Professional Learning and the Office of English Learners to support schools and offer engaging, relevant workshops.

- Cohorts 4-5 of the innovative Teacher leadership program begin October 9. For a total of almost 100 teacher leaders who will be supporting their schools and the district in digital learning. (Title IV)
- 30 educators began a summer ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) certification course and are currently enrolled in this course for completion in 6 months. (Title IV)
- The technology coaches and the iTeachers are offering a variety of school based and district workshops for technology integration. (Title IV)
- EdCamp open to all educators in MA is October 19, 2019
- A survey was sent out to ALL staff at the end of the FY19 school year, we received 748 responses.
 - 83% have attended a technology pd at their school/work site
 - 58% have attended a district offered technology pd
 - 71% have attended a pd facilitated or co-facilitated by the iTeacher in their building
 - 48% have met 1:1 or in a small group with the iTeacher in their building
 - 74% agree/strongly agree that they are comfortable using Google Classroom with students
 - 66.5% agree/strongly agree that they have adequate access to technology in their classroom/work
- Leadership:
 - The OITDL office continues to support school and district leaders both individually and through ongoing professional learning opportunities. An innovative principals network started last year and will continue and this year one more has been added reaching over 30 school and district leaders.
- Assessment:
 - The manager of instructional technology and the information technology officer continue to participate in bimonthly district data meetings to support district and state assessments
- Infrastructure/Equipment and Systems:
 - All buildings are fully wired
 - Ratios of student/chromebook are steadily increasing. By the end of 2019 the ratios are
 - 2:1 Grades K-6
 - 1:1 Grades 7-8

- 2:1 Grades 9-12
- Additional ipads, laptops, and desktop labs
- Erate application is going to begin in early 2020 for the next cycle. The district plans on using our award money for Internet access, fiber connectivity between schools, and wireless replacement projects.
- Funding has been identified to hire a consultant and begin the process of identifying and purchasing a new modern student information system to replace SAGE.
- Communication:
 - Mobile friendly ADA compliant website is complete and being regularly updated. Social media has continued to be leveraged, and an intranet for staff has been created shifting the internal communication off of the public facing website. The district is in the process of purchasing and rolling out a more robust version of Blackboard ConnectEd with greater translation capability. We are also in the process of rolling out a Mobile App that users can download for free onto their device and receive push notifications via the app.

The district is also working with the city on cybersecurity awareness training. A training was delivered to all of the principals and leadership. A sample phishing campaign was sent out to all employees and there will be optional follow up training.

Request that the Administration investigate the feasibility of seeking additional community support for acquisition of Chromebooks and other appropriate technological devices.

Response: The preference of the district is to use general funds to lease technology so that it is sustainable, while donations are important to bridging the gap between what we have now and what we aim to have, it is not a long term solution.

With the new funding at the end of the summer 2019, the district has put out an RFP for 5,000 additional chromebooks. This will bring up the leased, sustainable ratios to:

- 2:1 - K-6
- 1:1 - 7-8
- 2:1 - 9-12+

Educators in the district continue to use Donor's Choose and community donations for additional devices, as these are great to fill short term gaps. Recent community donations in the last two years include donations from Patriots, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester State University, Hanover Insurance, WEDF and others. Although we appreciate community support, these are not sustainable solutions and we continue to advocate for more funding in the foundation budget.