

Technology Sub-Committee Report

12/10/2009

The analysis of the Technology items crossed many priority themes: instructional enhancement, maintenance, security, efficiency and parity across campuses. We re-grouped our list into 6 categories: Computers, Network, Projectors, Classroom Tools, Security and Miscellaneous. Grouping items this way made it easier to compare, evaluate and prioritize like items.

Computers

The District has a goal of excellence and equity for all students as well as a Technology Mission Statement that states the dedication to providing an integrated technological curriculum to all students and staff members and that students will have access to the technology necessary to produce, manage, communicate and retrieve information in an efficient manner for educational and personal use. The largest single cost but the biggest instructional benefit comes from implementing a 1:1 Computing Program where all secondary students receive a netbook for use in school and at home. This program supports the district's plan for equity and excellence and provides an integrated approach to technology use that meets a core focus area of the District's Technology Mission Statement. Additionally, computer use is required in most post-secondary programs and professions so that accessible and constant access to technology in school will help prepare students for their future.

Network

The district and campus networks are needed to support many basic school and administrative communication functions such as the phone system, access to the district intranet, email and general internet access. We gave priority to items that are necessary to support the infrastructure that exists today and items that enable the district to take advantage of technology advancements that will enhance efficiency and education benefits. For example, the wireless network needs to expand to accommodate higher usage of wireless devices such as netbooks.

Projectors

This is the smallest grouping and will complete the projector initiative from the 05 Bond as well as add a few enhancements to classroom projectors and screens. We evaluated this so that all classrooms would have the same equipments available.

Classroom Tools

These are tools that enhance the learning experience such as interactive whiteboard, slates and student response systems. Some are being used in classrooms today. The benefit of these tools is that, by their nature, require participation, accommodate different learning styles, can be applied to small or large groups and used across all subject areas and age groups. We evaluated the requests based on cost and frequency of use in elementary and secondary schools. In some cases we are recommending items but at a reduced number.

Security

IP Security cameras and door access readers comprise this group of items. We looked at the existing security along with requested items at each campus then evaluated whether the item was critical to security at the site. If the requested item covered an area that required better security we kept it on the list. We also gave priority to replacing end-of-life analog systems with digital systems and replacing equipment that is becoming too expensive to repair.

Miscellaneous

Every technology item that did not fall into the above categories is found here. It runs the gamut from digital clocks to a bidding/procurement system to a district data storage needs. We evaluated the necessity, cost and benefit of each item with the priority given to supporting existing systems and efficiency.

Items Not Recommended

We are not recommending items that are not critical to the priority themes mentioned above and/or are too costly at this time. We also eliminated some campus requests that were taken care of in other items. For example, in recommending the netbook program, we eliminated the need to add and replace a number of classroom computers in secondary schools.