



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo: K:2 1:1 Device Expansion

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Maureen Chertow Miller, Director of Technology
Brad Goldstein, Chief Financial Officer

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Background

The Winnetka Public Schools has been using the iPad as an instructional tool since a pilot in 2013. In 2014, the School Board approved a roll out for grades 5-8 to have 1:1 iPads and K-4 to be cart based. Over the course of the pilot, elementary classroom teachers and specials requested additional devices. In 2018, we officially expanded our devices to be 1:1 for 3-8 grade. We also placed class sets of iPads in the three elementary school Resource Centers.

The technology refresh cycle has designated our current fleet of iPads to be refreshed in July 2021. With repairs and replacements, 3 years has been the maximum capacity for keeping reliable iPads in use. After 3 years, the iPad maintains a substantial residual value, allowing us to offset some of the cost of the next refresh.

Recently, Apple Education released a new model for Apple Care, its program that provides device coverage and repair through Apple providers for refurbishment. This repair expertise will extend the life of our devices to 4 years and maintain reasonable resale value. Therefore, future iPad purchases will be moved to a 4-year cycle and a 4-year lease.

School Closures and Device Purchase Needs

With the school closures due to Covid-19, we have been able to deploy iPads to families who need them by taking iPads from our Resource Centers and Related Arts classrooms. 107 iPads have been deployed to students in K-4 who have requested them, 56 for

students in K-2.

With the anticipation of school functioning in remote/hybrid rotation for 2020-2021, we are proposing that we provide iPads to ~450 K-2 students. Typically iPads and Chromebooks are shared on carts for our primary students. We want to minimize device-sharing among students.

In fall 2020, the plan was to replace the current staff iPads from 2018. This is a year earlier than planned because there are no longer 6th generation iPads available to purchase for replacement. By replacing the teacher fleet early, we have the ability to maintain all students on the same device. Making sure our fleet is all the same model of iPad eliminates many application and iOS compatibility issues, meaning more reliable behavior and faster support when issues arise.

This situation moved us to purchase 220 7th generation iPads out of the FY20 budget. These have already been purchased and received - but not yet distributed. Given the new context, we are asking that staff to keep their iPads for an additional year and reallocate the new devices to our primary students.

To make this possible, we would need a total of 500 iPads (inclusive of ~50 iPads for the fleet of repair and replacement). Given that we have purchased 220, this would be an additional, unplanned purchase of 280 iPads and cases. This purchase is directly related to the impact of COVID-19 and the remote learning solution.

As part of the original technology refresh, all of our remaining 6th generation ipads, staff and student, will be replaced in the 2021-2022 school year. This is a total of approximately 1200 ipads.

Financial Impact

The technology department has a device refresh cycle that includes expenditure forecasting with a lease model that intends to even out the annual expenditures. This unplanned expenditure will impact the refresh cycle and ongoing costs.

The technology department is also underspending FY20 budget in the areas of contractual upkeep due to some renegotiated contracts, professional development due canceled conferences and non-capital equipment for schools due to the abrupt school closures. This leaves us with additional funding of approximately \$80,000 exclusive of funds requested for carryover into the FY21 budget.

We are analyzing FY20 expenditures, FY21 budget, and device refresh plan in light of the unanticipated shift to remote learning and the demand it has on technology. We anticipate requesting the Board approve additional iPad purchases for K-2 students (approx \$211,000) at the June 11th Board meeting. This would require \$66,000 of additional funding out of this year's budget beyond what is already built into the technology budget. With underspending occurring in all departments and buildings due to the closure of schools, we believe this would not cause us to go over budget for FY20. The financial impact will be shared in context with FY20 and FY21 budgets at the June 11th meeting.