

To: Carol Coles, School Board Chair  
From: Jeff Brazee, Technology Director  
Re: School Board Update on Technology  
Date: August 10, 2021



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## A Look Back at 2020-2021

### 1. What we learned

#### a. Internet access is not ubiquitous in our communities.

This makes synchronous remote learning a challenge. Cellular-based hotspots are not a panacea as some residences do not have coverage. Conversely, terrestrial-based internet service providers (ISPs) may not deliver expected bandwidth in some areas.

#### b. Our students, teachers, and families take good care of digital tools.

We've had a very low breakage rate for student iPads.

### 2. 2020-2021 by the Numbers

- a. 1300+ laptops rolled out for students in grades 6-12
- b. 1030 new iPads and protective cases for students and teachers in grades K-5
- c. 1000 new carrying sleeves for student iPads
- d. 200 new storage and charging stations
- e. New iPad accessories for elementary student success
  - i. 338 headphones with microphone for students in grades K-1
  - ii. 612 earbuds with microphone for students in grades 2-5
  - iii. 450 crayon styluses for students in grades K-2
  - iv. 500 pens/styluses for students in grades 3-5
- f. 150 new iPads for 6-12 teachers
- g. 300 new USB microphones for PK-12 teachers
- h. 300 new portable document cameras for PK-12 teachers
- i. 50+ new TVs and monitors for hybrid teaching
- j. 400+ new hotspots for students
- k. Responded to 4500+ helpdesk requests and 600+ telephone helpline inquiries

# A Look Forward to 2021-2022

## 1. New technology/upgrades

- a. 1300+ new student laptops prepped and rolled out for start of year (anticipated)
- b. 1000+ student iPads prepped and rolled out for start of year
- c. 300+ new staff laptops deployed
- d. A/V cafeteria projects (projector, screen, audio) to bring all schools to the same capability
- e. WiFi updates around the district



## 2. Summer work

### a. Infrastructure updates

Security and firmware upgrades for core switching, Wifi tuning, and access point (AP) density around the district.

### b. Systems updates

MLTI funding will allow us to upgrade our learning management systems (LMS). Seesaw will be available for classrooms in grades PK-5 while Google Classroom will be available at all levels. We are developing our ability to manage accounts through automation using Clever which will automatically create classes for teachers in Seesaw and Google Classroom, and automatically update roster information from PowerSchool.

### c. Service Desk

Our service desk is processing 1300+ retired MacBook Air laptops for pickup by reseller. We expect 1300+ new MacBook Air laptops to arrive in the coming weeks which will be prepped for student use. We are also in the process of implementing a new service desk system that will assist us in tracking trouble tickets, manage our assets, and give students and staff easy access to self-service troubleshooting guides.

### d. Professional development (PD) and training

Work will begin in August to plan for technology-related PD and training for the upcoming school year and beyond. A group of teachers and administrators will develop a calendar of sessions and generate a list of topics that may include PowerSchool (our Student Information System, or SIS), Seesaw and Google Classroom, iPads, Digital Citizenship, or other topics as needed.

## 3. Challenges/concerns for the coming year

We will have a quick turnaround to receive and prepare laptops for students in grades 6-12. The hope is that they will arrive in time to be ready for the beginning of the school year. Planning for remote learning (if needed) will also be a concern due to internet connectivity challenges around our district. We will reactivate a number of hotspots for student use to address some situations, including our medically fragile students, and place hotspots in each library for check out.