

MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #400
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 13, 2012

Work and Deliberation
Partial Governance Process Monitoring #1(a)(ii)
Board Policy 1800 – OE-10: Instructional Program and OE-9 Communication and
Support to the Board

Background

Since the last full monitoring of OE-9 and OE-10, the Board has requested partial monitoring reports of these OE's, specifically on the progress being made on the One-to-One (1:1) computing device initiative. This winter 2012 partial monitoring is intended to update the board with additional information.

The Board recently requested a partial monitoring of OE-9 and OE-10 at the September 27, 2012 meeting. In that report the Superintendent and his team described a 1:1 computing environment as a setting where every student has access to an internet-ready device that allows for web access, document access, and short response capabilities. Typically this access can be achieved with a simple smart phone, iPod (or other similar device) with wireless access, or more robustly with an iPad, tablet or laptop. The initial plan was designed to be a *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD) initiative along with having a number of district-purchased devices in order to achieve a 1:1 learning environment for a September 1, 2013 launch date in grades 9-12 with following action steps:

- 1:1 iPad and iPod initiatives were continued and expanded.
- Professional development at the August Instructional Technology Day, secondary staff meetings, and before and after school trainings focused on integration of handheld devices in the classroom.
- Preliminary work was initiated on the upgrade of the fiber between the High School and Administration Building.

However, following a thorough analysis of the challenges and opportunities with a BYOD plan and investigation of the research available, the District reprioritized funding plans in the General Fund and in the Capital Fund in order to fund a 1:1 device for all students in grades 8-12 by September 1, 2013.

This report and action plan focuses on a district purchase of iPads for all 8th through 12th graders by the start of the 2013-2014 school year. The 2020 Vision's Essential Element is a more personalized learning environment for students, which we believe is supported in 1:1 technology-appropriate environments.

The intent of a district-funded 1:1 iPad environment is to allow teachers and students to have a consistent platform to use inside and outside the classroom. As an extension of our original BYOD (bring your own device) plan, this rollout means students will have a device in their hands daily with all the same applications that teachers can count on for their technology integration.

We have been piloting iPads over the last two years, and we have found the iPad meets the learning needs of students and teachers primarily due to app availability, portability and engagement. No tool is going to be perfect, but the iPad currently meets our needs and there is a growing community of schools that are already implementing 1:1's so we can learn from and with their staffs.

Revised 2012-2013 Action Plan

Switching to a 1:1 district-owned iPad device for each student requires a significant "ramp up" of the human, technical (equipment) and infrastructure requirements, which the district has been planning for these past two (2) years.

Technical (equipment) requirements now require a deployment schedule for nearly 1800 devices. The preliminary schedule of equipping teachers and students is:

January 2013 – Deployment of IMS and MIHS staff iPads (approximately 130 devices)

Spring 2013 – Deployment of iPads to 10th and 11th graders (approximately 650 devices)

August 2013 – Deployment of iPads to all 8th through 12th graders (final 1000 devices)

Prior to deployment we are developing teacher and student images, upgrading the parent/student acceptable use statement, working with a national insurance company to provide parent-purchased accidental damage and theft protection coverage, determining case and optional keyboard option(s), and determining requirements around students bringing personal iPad devices.

The Infrastructure requirement of upgrading the fiber connection between the High School and Administration are unchanged from the initial BYOD plan. While already underway, determining an iPad management system for the devices (assignment of devices, app distribution, etc.) has become a significant priority. Several systems are under review, with a final selection by January 2013.

Human requirements are expanding as well. Professional development already planned for the BYOD is continuing including the following:

- utilizing handhelds in the classroom to augment the curriculum and optimize personalized learning

- developing and implementing formative assessment tools such as online quizzes/exit slips/feedback applications for teacher use in improving the learning environment
- conducting appropriate research activities that support and enrich the curriculum
- evaluation of internet sources

Professional development opportunities focused on 1:1 environments will continue throughout the school year.

The MIHS Technology Integration Specialist is planning all staff professional development including two 1:1 focused trainings (December staff meeting and February district-directed day). IMS will continue and expand the ongoing professional development for 8th grade staff as a result of their current 1:1 iPod implementation.

The secondary Technology Integration Specialists will also continue to provide significant support to teachers for their specific curriculum as they integrate 1:1 environments.

And the final human requirements with 1800 new devices a new Technology Specialist position is required and will be funded.

While all 8th through 12th grade students will have access to a device, the best-instructional practices in all classrooms and learning environments will prevail. Utilization is still dependent on the professionally-trained teacher, using appropriate instructional technology to optimize learning.