

April 14, 2014

Principals, Tech Support Specialists, and Crossroads Team,

As we settle into the Spring trimester, it's a perfect time to give you an update on the Crossroads Bond Project. The following is a summary of the work that has been completed to date in Round 1 as well as what is coming up in Round 2 of the Bond Replacement project.

Centralized Purchases and Processing for Student Technology

With this Bond project, we have begun the process of purchasing student technology centrally. This means student technology will be ordered for the schools via Bond funds from the Central office instead of by each individual school. This will enable us to obtain better pricing as well as develop a process for receiving, tagging, inventorying, and imaging all computers and tablets centrally before they arrive at the schools. It will also help bring all our schools closer to the same operating system, which, in turn, will be more efficient for tutorials and quick sheets.

Round 1

RE: Technology Inventory

A physical inventory was done between Spring 2013 and Fall 2013. All student desktop and laptop computers were evaluated based on a variety of items (e.g. CPU, build date) and then given a grade of A-F. Overall, approximately 60% were rated "D" or "F". Since every school in the District had "F" rated devices...the first goal of the Crossroads Bond Replacement monies therefore was to replace 36 of these machines with a COW (computers on wheels) of 36 new MacBook Air laptops. I personally met with each principal to go over the Crossroads Round 1 process as well as present them with their eligible "trade in" list (D and F rated desktops and laptops). We also chatted in general about the upcoming Round 2 in the Fall.

RE: Rollout

By the week of [April 21st](#)...ALL of our schools will have received their new COW as well as "traded in" 36 obsolete machines. After salvaging what parts were still viable, Next Step recycling worked with us to pick up the remainder of the equipment.

RE: Image

Our goal was to deliver the new COWS to the schools "ready to use" without any extra work from our already overloaded building TSSs. With this in mind, the laptops were imaged with a "generic" base image that includes: iLife Suite, iWorks Suite, Libre Office Suite, the OAKS browser, and school printer drivers. This base image enables schools to use the laptops immediately for OAKS testing as well as instructional integration until the end of the school year. In the summer, the building Techs will be reimaging all the laptops with a customized image that meets the needs of each building. Hopefully the techs will be able to install whatever will be needed for the new Smarter Balanced test.

Round 2

RE: School Instructional Technology Plans

In keeping with one of the Crossroads Bond Project's guiding principle of "Staff Readiness and Technology Leadership Teams (TLT)" each school has been asked to update their existing instructional tech plan to include the new equipment, their vision for moving their students towards a "personal learning device" (over the coming 2-3 years) with a focus on technology integrated into the core content, and their ideas and commitment to professional development for staff at the building level. These updated plans are due in June.

RE: Equipment Rollout

Based on the school plans coupled with the continuing desire to replace "obsolete equipment" in our schools, distribution of "personal learning devices" (laptops or iPads) will vary. The schools will again be asked to "trade in" old (D and F rated) computers for new replacement devices in keeping with their vision. I will again be meeting with each principal to discuss the possibilities in Round 2 during the month of August.

Thanks to all of the building Tech Support Specialists, Administrators, and Technology Leadership Teams (TLT) at the schools that helped determine the best transition from "old" to "new" for each building....including your input into updating the school Instructional Technology Plan.

We have heard wonderful stories already as to what a difference this new equipment is making in our students learning environment. Our tax payers are certainly seeing an immediate impact of their "YES" vote on the Bond.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions along the way.....as we move into Round 2 of this wonderful opportunity for our students.

Kim

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