

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee
FROM: Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology
DATE: May 9, 2017
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Technology Funds in FY 2017-18

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to BSEP Measure E1 of 2016, “Three and a quarter percent (3.25%) of the Available Revenues shall be allocated to providing instructional technology in schools, and access for students to computers and instructional technology.”¹

Program Objectives

Up-to-date technology is a vital asset for Berkeley Public Schools in several ways. The appropriate use of technology broadens thinking and problem-solving skills, improves access to information and communication, and provides opportunities for self-direction to take research and learning in new directions. Access to technology is an equity issue - all students should have opportunities to engage with current technology. The use of technology engages students in learning, supports improved attendance, and facilitates parent involvement. Technology helps schools meet the needs of all students with opportunities for differentiated instruction and expanded options for participation, learning, and expression.

Program Summary

The programmatic goal of these funds is to support technology used at the school sites. Staff provide expertise in integrating technology into classroom practice; provide hardware and software support to school teachers, staff and administrators, including instructional technology and information systems such as PowerSchool and Illuminate; and provide funds and ordering assistance for school technology purchases made by school governance councils and committees.

Beginning in 2015-16, a Technology Workgroup consisting of the Assistant Superintendent, the Technology Director, the Director of Schools, the Library Coordinator, and the Instructional Technology Teacher on Special Assignment convened to create a plan for professional development for teachers around instructional technology. In 2015-16, a three-day planning session was held with elementary teachers, instructional coaches, and principals. The resulting framework led to Chromebooks available constantly throughout the school day (1:1) in grades 4 & 5, and 2:1 in grade 3, as well as teachers becoming Google Certified Educators and schools becoming Common Sense Media certified. In 2016-17, a new committee was formed, where the planning work involved middle school teachers, principals and other staff in preparation for going 1:1 in 6th

¹ BSEP Measure E1 of 2016, Section 3.B.iv

grade in 2017-18.

A brief report on the 2016-17 school year sets the stage for continued progress in 2017-18:

1. The 1:1 Chromebook cart in every 4th and 5th grade classroom was very successful.
 - a. Professional Development (three half-day sessions for all 4th-5th grade teachers) was very well-received (and attended) by the teachers.
 - b. The growth of Chromebooks continues throughout the District. Over the last two years, the number of Chromebooks available has increased from roughly 2,850 to 5,600, largely funded by district one-time funds and significant school and parent contributions in secondary schools.
 - c. A March 2017 survey of 4th and 5th grade teachers, offered the following findings:
 - i. 91% of teachers thought having the Chromebook cart made either a large (67%) or moderate (24%) amount of change in the instructional day
 - ii. 97% of teachers thought it made either a large (81%) or moderate (16%) amount of change in student engagement in their classroom
 - iii. 93% of teachers thought it made either a large (53%) or moderate (40%) amount of change in student learning in their classroom
 - iv. 87% of teachers thought it made a large (47%) or moderate (40%) amount of change in student learning
2. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) continue to be implemented. These standards incorporate guidelines for all students to be competent with technology.
3. The biweekly meetings of the “DigiTech” committee² (Library and Technology) have been productive on two levels:
 - a. Creation of a framework for instructional technology within the new CCSS curriculum; and
 - b. Troubleshooting problems that teachers were having incorporating technology in the classroom.
4. A significant staffing addition was made, as planned, starting on October 1, 2016. The position of Technology Supervisor was created to expand and supervise the work of the School Computer Technicians, as well as provide

² The DigiTech committee consists of Instructional Technology Coordinator Allison Krasnow, Library Coordinator Becca Todd, Technology Supervisor Bradley Hilton, Instructional Tech TSA Mia Gittlin, Library TSAs Mary Ann Scheuer (½ time) and Eric Silverberg, and consultation with BHS TSAs Matt Albinson and Keldon Clegg.

expanded professional development opportunities and foster a collaborative environment.

5. Wireless coverage was much improved in all schools with the installation of Ruckus Wireless access points that utilize the latest protocols and have larger radio arrays than previous wi-fi access points, providing wireless capacity to ensure all classrooms are able to fully utilize a computer cart.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS for FY 2017-18

Staff \$713,400

- School Computer Technicians 6.20 FTE
- Technology Supervisor 0.75 FTE
- Instructional Technology TSA 0.50 FTE

School Computer Technicians 6.2 FTE

The job of the technicians is to work with teachers and staff to keep computers, tablets, projectors, printers etc. working, to help integrate technology with the curriculum, to support teachers using Illuminate and PowerSchool, as well as to help technology committees and School Site Councils make decisions about technology expenditures. Staffing includes:

- 2.0 FTE support the high schools (of which 1.8 is for BHS and 0.2 FTE is for BTA and BIS),
- 1.6 FTE support the middle schools, and
- 2.6 FTE supports the elementary schools and preschools and provides support for site technology purchases.
- Since all but one of these are 10-month positions, an extra \$3,000 for classified extra duty is budgeted for work over the summer.

Teacher on Special Assignment – Instructional Technology 0.5 FTE

Since 2010-11, a TSA for Instructional Technology has been co-funded by BSEP Technology and BSEP Professional Development. Since LCFF, the position is funded 50% from the BSEP Technology budget, and 50% from the BSEP Professional Development budget. This plan continues this funding.

Technology Supervisor 0.75 FTE

The Technology Supervisor position directly supervises the school technicians and spends much of his time in schools. The position also provides expanded professional development opportunities for the School Techs and fosters a collaborative environment. *(Funded to 1.0 FTE with 0.25 from the General Fund.)*

Technology Teacher Leaders & Hourly Support \$43,500

Funding for 17 Tech Teacher Leaders at \$2,098 per stipend for the 2017-18 school year. This will be the third year these stipends have been a part of the 0862 BSEP Technology budget. A cohesive, long-range plan for ongoing

professional development is critical to creating a culture where all teachers are technologically literate and are able to integrate these tools to increase students' engagement and achievement. Part of that plan is to fund a Tech Teacher Leader stipend at every site. Teachers are interested in doing more with technology, but some are unsure how to implement these pedagogical shifts or how to integrate their current curriculum with the increased use of technology. This amount includes \$5,000 for additional hourly support or professional development.

Technology Equipment for Schools

\$74,000

BSEP Funding in the schools provides about \$8 per student for technology equipment, repairs and software licenses. Fortunately, the passage of Measure I of 2010, the Prop 65 facilities bond for the BUSD, has enabled another \$250,000 per year to be dedicated to technology. That amount increased to \$592,000 in 15-16, per the plan adopted by the School Board. During the last three years, Measure I bond funds improved the wireless infrastructure across the District. In 2016-17, Measure I funds funded a SIP-enabled VOIP telephone system to replace a system that was beyond its useful life.

SMART GOALS for 2017-18:

In addition to the overall program goals and objectives of described above, following are a few specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals for the year 2017-18.

1. All 3rd-5th grade teachers will continue to integrate technology into the regular day curriculum, as well as expand use of Google Classroom with professional development led by their Technology Teacher Leader, optional ½-day PDs offered throughout the school-year, a 2-day August Institute of teacher-led workshops, and technology integrated into content-area PDs offered through the PD department.
2. By September 2017, all 4th-6th grade classrooms where teachers have become Google or BUSD Technology Certified Educators will have additional Chromebooks for a 1:1 student to device ratio. In 3rd grade and 7th-8th grade classrooms, there will be one Chromebook cart shared by two classrooms.
3. At least 75 K-12 teachers will attend the DigiTech August Institute with workshops led by BUSD teachers.
4. All 7th-8th grade teachers will have a 2:1 ratio of students to Chromebooks, and will use technology weekly with students.
5. At least 75% of middle school math teachers will attend the two-day technology and math PD in August 2017.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Following is the proposal for the Technology Budget for FY 2017-18:

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|--|-----------------|
| Revenue | \$913,200 |
| Expenses | |
| Technology Staff | 710,400 |
| Classified Hourly Extra Duty/Summer Work | 3,000 |
| Certificated Hourly | 5,000 |
| Technology Teacher Leader Stipends | 38,500 |
| Equipment and Supplies | 74,000 |
| Reserve for Personnel Variance | 20,000 |
| Indirect Cost | 50,714 |
| Total Expenses | <u>901,614</u> |
| Net Change to Fund Balance | 11,586 |
| Fund Balance | |
| Beginning Fund Balance | 25,000 |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) | <u>11,586</u> |
| Ending Fund Balance | <u>\$36,586</u> |