

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning & Oversight Committee
FROM: Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology
DATE: January 27, 2015
SUBJECT: Recommendation for additional expenditure of funds from
the Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006
for Technology in 2014-15

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Purpose

The following recommendation is for the allocation of funds for the Purpose of Technology in accordance with BSEP Measure A of 2006, Section 3.C:
... One Tech Teacher Leader per K-12 site will be paid a stipend of \$902 for this spring semester, be able to attend a technology professional development workshop, and receive a Chromebook. Stipends are based on meeting attendance and site support.

In compliance with recently passed guidelines governing budget changes, "A BSEP Budget Manager should return to the P&O Committee if:

- 1) There is a substantial change in the direction of the program or a significant component of the program such that a reasonable person would expect that this shift in direction is a significant departure from past practice or expectations, and/or
- 2) There is a significant change in the allocation of budgeted funds such that either:
 - a. There is a 10% increase or decrease in projected overall expenditures
 - b. The fund balance will be reduced by 15% more than previously projected.

This proposal is to fund up to 17 Tech Teacher Leader positions for the second semester of the 2014-15 school year (\$902 stipend per position).

Investing in hardware for technology is far simpler than investing in professional development. Over the past several years the BUSD Technology Department has made dramatic improvements in providing access for students and teachers to technology. Beginning in 3rd grade, every student has a Google Drive account, which becomes a live email account in 6th grade. All teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students are on the same berkeley.net Google Apps for Education domain, which facilitates communication and collaboration. The wireless network in BUSD now reaches every site and literally improves by the week. Over the past two years at least two carts of 30 Chromebooks have been purchased for every elementary school, with larger schools receiving additional carts. The Technology Department, with support

from the Berkeley Public Schools Fund and the SGC and PTA of Rosa Parks, has funded a pilot program there with a 2:1 ratio of students to Chromebooks in the 4th and 5th grades. Every K-8 classroom is currently being provided an LCD projector and document camera if they didn't already have one. The increase in availability of technology has created the potential for significantly more student interaction with the digital world, yet the use varies because not all teachers have had the opportunity to receive professional development (PD) in technology.

In order to ensure that teachers are regularly integrating technology into their curriculum and students are regularly using it, there is a need to focus on long-term professional development. Teachers are excited and interested in making pedagogical shifts, but not enough time has been carved out to provide sufficient training. The district currently has multiple initiatives which require district-wide professional development, including training all teachers in culturally responsive practices, integrating the Toolbox with PBIS at elementary sites to improve school-wide culture and positive discipline, and K-8 math and language arts training on new curriculum for the Common Core Standards. Each of these initiatives is important, but it has made it challenging for the Instructional Technology Department to find time for ongoing technology PD for teachers. To address this need, we are proposing a long-term plan, which will increase technology leadership at sites and collaboration among teachers as they integrate more technology to improve students' engagement and learning.

As detailed below, the Tech Teacher leader has significant co-funding from other groups. All teachers will receive a Chromebook from other funds, the opportunity to participate in a fall 3-day Instructional Technology Symposia to be held in the district. A to-be-announced-grant will provide K-8 Tech Teacher Leaders and a peer from their school with \$800 to attend an instructional tech conference.

Objectives

Tech Teacher Leaders will:

- Spend at least an hour per week supporting teachers and staff to integrate more instructional technology school-wide.
 - Train teachers on tech tools/resources and demonstrate strategies for integrating technology into core curriculum during one staff meeting per month;
 - Share a tech tip with staff in a brief 5-minute demonstration every other week at staff meetings;
 - Communicate regularly with the principal and site leadership team about needs and issues related to Instructional Technology;
 - Guide staff or grade level collaboration discussions around integrating technology into instruction and student learning;

- Respond in a timely manner to teacher and staff emails/requests for instructional technology support;
- Have knowledge about using the technology tools and resources (e.g. Chromebooks, Document Cameras, Google Apps for Education, etc.) available at their site.
- Consult regularly with TSA for Instructional Technology;
- Invite teachers to observe ways to use technology in the classroom and meet afterwards to debrief with them.
- Attend monthly TTL meetings from 3:30pm-5:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month starting February 3.
- Attend one spring or summer, 1-2 day Bay Area professional development conference sponsored by Google, CUE Rock Stars or Apple (up to \$800 of expenses will be reimbursed by a grant).
- Attend a 3-day BUSD Instructional Technology Collaborative Institute tentatively scheduled from Wednesday, August 19 to Friday, August 21. (Daily teacher rate will be paid.)

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

The following are recommendations for the additional expenditure of BSEP Technology funds in FY 2014-15:

Stipends

\$15,334

- 11 Elementary School Tech Teacher Leaders
- 3 Middle School Tech Teacher Leaders
- 3 High School Tech Teacher Leaders

BUDGET SUMMARY

These stipends will be funded use of unallocated funds and fund balance in the Technology part of the 9% for Tech Teacher Leaders. The expense will be realized in Spring 2015. The expenditures will reduce the fund balance in this part of the 9% budget to \$12,316. Several one-time sources for technology, including the Hillside School funds will augment any reduction in technology equipment expenditures in future years.

Fund Balance

Ending Fund Balance (1st Interim)

\$27,650

Net Increase/Decrease

15,334

Ending Fund Balance

\$12,316