

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, innovation & technology, ext. 2755

Re: Learning Forward, Future Ready Update & High School Recommendation

Date: February 9, 2017

Background:

Schools around the world are looking to put the power of technology into student hands by providing mobile devices for every student. These initiatives, which seek to equip every student with the personal technology needed to learn and communicate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, address the district's goals of equity, excellence and engagement.

Beginning in May 2016, a cadre of high school teachers from both Free State and Lawrence High Schools as well as district administrators began planning a 1:1 pilot to take place the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year, with the ultimate goal of recommending to the board a 1:1 device to be used in the high schools beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

In its first meetings, this Digital Learning Task Force narrowed the pilot devices down to two, the iPad and MacBook, and sorted into subcommittees to map out a meaningful pilot design, professional development needs, site visits, and overall learning goals.

Following a series of summer meetings wherein the committee members created a Digital Citizenship curriculum, decided on apps necessary to the high school coursework, designed a Parent Night, and planned the technological and logistical details of the pilot, the devices were deployed to roughly 400 students. Free State pilot teachers and their students spent the first nine weeks with the iPad and Lawrence High pilot teachers and students tested the MacBook. In mid-October, the devices were swapped, and teachers and students piloted their new device for another nine weeks.

At the conclusion of the semester-long pilot, committee members shared their successes and "lessons learned" and evaluated each device as a learning tool. Additionally, KU's Center for Research (ALTEC) surveyed students, teachers and parents in their evaluation of the pilot project and committee members ranked each device in order of preference.

Current Report:

This report to the Board of Education will summarize the high school pilot project, share the results of the evaluations and make a recommendation for 1:1 devices to be used at the high schools. With 19 out of 26, or 73.1% of the Digital Learning Taskforce respondents ranking the MacBook as their first preference, 1:1 MacBooks are being recommended for the high schools beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. The cost of this purchase including MacBooks, Apple Professional Learning and the Dux Hardshell MacBook Air cases, is quoted at \$3,062,012. This does not include teacher devices which were leased in 2014 with the final payment to be made this school year.