

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

September 20, 2010

To: Board of Education Members

From: Joanne Rathunde

Subject: Technology Report

Hardware Update Discussion

This fall, we will make the last lease payment of \$65,355 for equipment we purchased 3 years ago. This equipment is district owned and will remain in use for probably another 3 years until it can no longer support what we do or until it fails – whichever comes first.

Typically what we do to maintain the lease payment line item in the budget is to tack on an additional 3 years. This would allow us to continue our upgrade cycle of purchasing new hardware to upgrade the teaching labs. The lab machines would then go to classrooms, and aging classroom machines would be cycled out.

Apple has contacted me with very aggressive purchasing options along with creative and strategic leasing options. At this point, we need to begin the discussion:

Do we continue on with leasing – enter into another 3-4 year lease not to exceed the current payment amount in this year's balanced budget?

Do we pay the lease off and not enter in to a new lease, stalling the upgrade cycle and live with what we have until we can find a way to budget for a lease payment?

Do we pay off the lease, purchase less equipment resulting in a lower yearly lease payment?

Some things to consider:

- Almost everything we initiate for students has some kind of technology component. Many of our RtI initiatives are technology based.
- NWEA is computer based testing.
- Educationally based online resources for students are almost unavoidable and in many ways have saved a great deal of money on major software purchases.

It is difficult to provide our students with technology enriched experiences if we don't keep our technology as current as we possibly can. We use equipment until it no longer serves our needs and we make the most of what we purchase. If we decide to maintain what we are currently spending in the budget, we will more than likely be able to upgrade the instructional labs and many classroom machines as we move equipment around. Our special education classrooms are all upgraded with new machines purchased with ARRA funds last school year.

No decision needs to be made today, but we need to have this discussion to determine how to proceed.