

Date: July 10, 2015

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Elizabeth Hoover, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer

THROUGH:  Dr. Alvin Crawley, Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Amplify Tablet System Status

BACKGROUND

Amplify has notified ACPS that they are no longer investing in new tablets or upgrades to their system. Although they will continue to support current clients, they have halted previously planned updates to the operating and management software. In addition, they will no longer invest in student and teacher requested enhancements.

IMPACT

Technology Services and TC administration are concerned about investing valuable professional development time in a product that will be discontinued in the following school year. In addition, a critical software update that was planned for this summer now has been canceled. This update was essential for new applications anticipated by teachers and for applying technical solutions for device management.

As part of the Amplify implementation, teachers and students were provided Google for Education accounts. As a result, this establishes some foundation for ACPS to select a Google device to replace the Amplify tablet. In addition, many of the instructional applications used on the tablet would be available on a Google device.

Although it is an aggressive timeline, through multiple meetings with Technology Services, Dr. Dingle, Mr. Mann and TC staff, consensus has been reached that moving to another device for the 2015-2016 school year would be the best option. A timeline has been attached that includes additional student and teacher input in the device selection, student training and teacher professional development.

Changes made to Google devices and Google Classroom in the last year would provide students and teachers a similar customized environment that was provided through the Amplify tablet.

Amplify has agreed to release ACPS from the lease at no additional cost. The tablets that were originally purchased for the pilot can remain at Polk, Tucker and Douglas MacArthur. Given the smaller scale of implementation, professional development needs and difference in technical requirements between elementary and high school students, Technology Services and elementary staff agree on this course of action.

Through the summer staff will work with the five elementary schools selected for the expansion of the Amplify pilot to determine next steps.

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Elizabeth Hoover

Tablet Replacement Plan

Weeks	Actions
Week of July 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Communication Plan- Teacher sample - https://docs.google.com/a/acps.k12.va.us/document/d/1IXbZ-g_5XObaxZRYZB7lbgRNf-aM_uCs0bTKSN0tL80/edit?usp=sharing • Tech Services Interns plan and conduct a Student Tech Summit with students to evaluate potential Chromebook models/Google Classroom/Training needs for students • TS plan and conduct a Teacher Tech Summit to evaluate potential chromebook models/Google Classroom/Professional development needs • TS works with Procurement to publish an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for a variety of different Chromebooks • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of July 20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Interns and TS analyze data collected at Student and Teacher Tech Summits • Summer Interns begin developing training for student training needs • Work with Rachal Edwards to plan and modify online and in-person training for early August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://www.google.com/edu/training • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of July 27-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with TC administration to develop professional development topics for online and in-person professional development • Finalize API integration with PowerSchool • Tech Services Interns present training plans for students • Award vendor a contract for Chromebooks for delivery to begin August 20th. • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of August 3-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development offerings • Work with TC administration to develop expectations for technology integration • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of August 10-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Training with TC/MH administration • Finalize Dates/locations/Plan for Student Deployment • Plan for the receiving, tagging and preparation of Chromebooks • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of August 17-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate professional development schedule to teachers

Tablet Replacement Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot professional development sessions with returning TISs • Finalize plans for receiving, tagging and preparation of Chromebooks • Begin receiving, tagging and preparing Chromebooks • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan • Begin Device Deployment planning
Week of August 24-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue receiving, tagging and preparing Chromebooks • Early Adopters and Teacher Trainers for TC/MH are trained in Chromebooks and Classroom 27/28 • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan • Finalize Device Deployment plan •
Week of August 31-September 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish tagging and preparing Chromebooks • Provide teacher professional development • TCTIS meet with Departments to identify department specific needs/training • Training plan is debriefed and further professional development is scheduled to meet teacher needs • Communicate Device Deployment plan to teachers • Small group/one on one training is scheduled and delivered on request of teachers/departments • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of September 8-September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIS Support teachers with in class/drop-in support and continued small group/one on one training • Further Professional Development is planned for with TC/MH admin approval and dates are identified • Student Pre-Training is deployed to students through Titan Time/advisory • Device Deployment schedule communicated to students • TS and TC Staff meet weekly to discuss status of plan
Week of September 14-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device Deployment begins