

**July 1, 2009**

**Vashon Island School District  
Plan for instructional and operational technology 2010-2012**

In today's global society, technology plays an increasingly vital role in educating students and supporting operations. Tools, ranging from distance-learning video feeds to computer lab equipment, connect education to real-world projects and problem solving, enhance group interaction and allow students to learn with tools they will use for a lifetime.

This document outlines how Vashon Island School District (VISD) plans to fund and implement a straightforward technology plan with clear parameters.

VISD envisions using technology in two ways:

- 1. In the classroom:** For technology to be truly effective, teachers and students need to use it on a daily basis to attain curricular goals. While teaching technology used to mean pulling students out of class to learn computer applications, tools are now integrated into the classroom as part of everyday teaching and learning.
- 2. To support operations:** Technology also plays a critical role in many areas of district operations, including student information management, food services, fiscal management, special services documentation, energy management, telephone services, video conferencing, email, website, security, library catalog, and basic desktop computer services to name a few.

Funding this vision is a challenge. Computer hardware, software, professional development and technical support have never been funded from the state's basic education budget. Consequently districts, including Vashon, have implemented technology programs by using limited general fund dollars or by passing technology/capital maintenance levies supported by the community.

In 2002 through 2005, Vashon taxpayers funded \$750,000 annually for technology and capital projects. In 2006 and 2007, voters approved \$1,240,000 annually. Currently, capital maintenance/technology funds from these previous levies are nearly depleted, and a levy renewal is needed in order to sustain the technology program.

VISD is proposing a three-year, \$2.7 million technology and capital maintenance levy that would provide approximately \$900,000 annually for the years, 2010-2012. Below is an itemized list of how the district will use these funds to implement the technology vision.

**Technology Staffing**

There are more than 225 staff and 1500 students in VISD. The scope of technical knowledge required to keep operations and technical instruction working smoothly is vast and multifaceted.

**Proposal:** Provide \$300,000 per year for four full-time employees responsible for technical management, end-user support and staff training. (Cost: \$900,000)

### **Professional Development**

To effectively use technology in the classroom, teachers need training. The technology literacy specialist will provide leadership to create a comprehensive professional development program that helps integrate technology into the curriculum. Funding will provide opportunities for small group instruction, coaching, and development of on-line support tools.

**Proposal:** Provide \$50,000 per year to fund time and materials for professional development. (Cost: \$150,000)

### **Network**

When VISD's network was built in 1998, our data needs were modest. However, in the last ten years, our capacity and utilization have grown enormously. We now regularly use video conferencing and streaming in class, internet phone service at the district office, and offsite data services (student/fiscal management); all of which require greater network bandwidth.

To meet this increasing demand and to ensure the reliability of our network, we will need to upgrade network components to ensure system capacity and security.

**Proposal:** Provide \$20,000 per year to fund replacement of network components. (Cost: \$60,000)

### **Printers**

Funding will support replacement printers, supplies, as well as printer repair and maintenance.

**Proposal:** Provide \$20,000 per year for printing needs. (Cost: \$60,000)

### **Software Licensing**

Each year, the district must acquire licensing for desktop applications, antivirus protection, spam protection, and video surveillance systems. We have been steadily reducing our licensing costs with open-source software. We also plan to use online applications such as Google Docs and Accelerated Math which are available at a reduced cost and offer at-home access for staff and students.

**Proposal:** Provide \$20,000 per year to fund software licensing. (Cost: \$60,000)

## **School Projects**

In the last two capital project cycles, we established an allocation for each school to address individual technology needs. Each school uses these funds to purchase specialized classroom technology to support curricula.

**Proposal:** Provide \$30,000 per year to allocate to schools for curriculum-based technology needs. (Cost: \$90,000)

## **Computer Replacement Cycle**

All technology equipment is on a replacement cycle: four to five years for desktop computers; five to seven years for monitors; and six to eight years for printers. We do our best to extend the life of all our systems by upgrading computer memory and hard drives and servicing equipment. Each year we replace a number of systems and take the old systems and re-purpose them in less demanding environments.

**Proposal:** Provide \$26,000 per year to fund the hardware replacement cycle. (Cost: \$78,000)

## **Wireless Networks**

Wireless has been available in the district for several years as it is an important part of the technology integration process, primarily because of its flexibility.

As more and more students bring wireless devices to school, ready access to the internet and network resources will be important within the classroom and in other common areas. Proposed is to expand wireless services to include secure connections on two wireless networks, one for students and one for staff.

**Proposal:** Provide \$24,000 to improve the wireless network infrastructure. (Cost: \$24,000)

## **Technology Data Center**

The data center is the core of our network, thus we need to maintain and update its electronics regularly.

**Proposal:** Provide \$15,000 - \$20,000 per year to fund data center electronics upgrades. (Cost: \$55,000)

## **Lab/Library Support**

There are currently 13 dedicated computer labs in the district that require regular maintenance and upgrades. Smaller mini-classroom labs will eventually become the norm and will grow in numbers to respond to curricular requirements.

**Proposal:** Provide \$50,000 per year to establish a library/lab maintenance and replacement cycle to keep them functioning within acceptable standards of performance. (Cost: \$150,000)

### **Classroom AV**

The word “Audio Visual (AV)” is a throwback to an earlier era of classroom technology, yet it rather accurately describes the high-tech classroom of today. Modern classrooms are provisioned for the use of laptops or other portable devices, digital projectors, document cameras, DVD players, and interactive technology as part of normal day-to-day classroom activity.

**Proposal:** Provide each classroom with the proper wiring and component interfaces for safe easy use of these tools. This would include mounting projectors, routing power to proper locations, cabling all device options, and switching interfaces for connecting laptops, DVD or other devices to the system. (Cost: \$180,000)