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To: Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen, Superintendent
From: Randi Ivancich, Technology Director
Date: January 31, 2018
Re: Monthly Report on Technology Levy and Planning

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Technology Levy Budget Summary

This is the final summary for the 2017/2018 technology levy budget. This summary provides information on the total encumbrances (outstanding and paid) applied to the 2017/2018 fiscal school year. The 2017/2018 technology levy budget is comprised of funds from the 2014 and 2017 BISD technology levy collections. (Slight variations in the totals are due to rounding.)

SY 2017/2018 Technology Levy Budget Capacity	$2,500,905
Purchase Orders (Commitment to Pay when Invoiced)	$1,121,822
Interim (Working) Balance	$1,379,083
SY 2017/2018 Technology Levy Budget Capacity	$2,500,905
Paid Invoices	$ 928,108
SY 2017/2018 Remaining Balance ("in the bank")	$1,572,797

Request for Proposals for E-Rate Eligible Technology Projects

As a reminder, the FCC E-rate program for schools provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access and internal connections. Recent modernization of the E-rate program has shifted emphasis from traditional telecommunications to systems that increase support for Internet access including broadband and wireless access. Once a project has been properly bid and approved by USAC, the agency that administers the E-rate program, the school district will receive reimbursement for part of the project costs.

The school district has Requests for Proposals (RFPS) in process so we can maximize our participation in the E-Rate funding program. We will bring recommendations to the school board for approval of the goods and services that qualify for E-rate funding to reimburse the district for part of the costs of these projects.

Teaching & Learning

The technology levy supports systems, software and assistive technologies to meet the needs of students receiving special education services. Technology Department staff work closely with Diane Leonetti and her staff to provide the supports needed for students with special needs.

An Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity School District

BISD provides a touchscreen Chromebook to all students in grades 3-12 to support learning and instruction. The Chromebooks are kept at school in carts for grades 3-6. Students in grades 7-12 take the Chromebooks to and from school.

The schools and classrooms serving grades K-4 have eight iPads per general education classroom. Some elementary programs like STEM have additional iPads in their classrooms. This winter/spring we are increasing access to devices for students in grades K-2 by adding iPads and Chromebooks so each classroom has a half-class set of iPads and a half-class set of touchscreen Chromebooks. These devices will be housed in carts, one cart per classroom.

The technology levy supports many web-based subscriptions to support teaching and learning. Most of these can be reached from school and from home. At the beginning of the school year, teacher-librarians and classroom teachers share web addresses and login information with students. Some subscriptions are geared for specific grade bands or subject areas. Subscriptions supported by the technology levy include ST Math; BrainPOP; One More Story; PebbleGo; World Book Online; InfoBase Learning for streaming media; and ABC CLIO, SIRS and ProQuest for high school social studies. The technology levy also supports the district-wide Follet Destiny library management system.

Technology staff at the district and school levels regularly monitor the classroom presentation stations. With any modern day technologies there are regular and ongoing maintenance and repairs. Where possible, we work to develop proactive measures. For example, technology staff and custodial staff have a schedule to clean projectors to help maximize the life and performance of our investments. In some cases, hardware such as a projector may not be needed anymore in a particular space. We remove the projector, service it and then look for opportunities to find a new location. This is true of all of our technology that has usable life and is in good condition.

There are several components to the classroom presentation stations. Each component has a replacement schedule with a life expectancy that is modified as we see actual performance in the classroom. For example, the document cameras have performed very well. They are 10-11 years old and surpassed original estimates for useable life. However, they are now having issues and are on the schedule for replacement. We regularly monitor the performance of technology equipment and then make adjustments to replacement plans and cycles.

Technology staff with wonderful support from our Maintenance Department staff are replacing dated projection surfaces with whiteboards that are constructed as projection surfaces for interactive technology. The boards have low gloss and rigid support so the surfaces do not flex when used as an interactive surface. These replacements will be phased in over the next two school years.

The technology levy supports subscriptions that provide information and data for the instructional staff so they can differentiate instruction so it is focused on the particular needs of large groups and small groups of students and even individual students. Some of these subscriptions are also used as part of our system to qualify students for specific supports such as the Highly Capable program. Subscriptions include CogAT, FastBridge for math and reading, and Homeroom for data management.

This year's Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) conference is in Seattle at the end of February. BISD teachers and instructional staff have the opportunity to attend and we are in the process of registering as a group for this event.

Network and Infrastructure
Staff members throughout each school and in several district office departments have voluntarily switched from Windows 7 to Windows 10 operating system. Windows 10 is better able to support interactive technologies and several in our pilot have reported better response times and access to those features. WE are also working through compatibility issues that arise when moving from one system to another. Technology staff is testing Windows 10 and making adjustments to the system now before it is expanded.

Communications & Productivity
The technology levy supports several district-wide communications systems such as School Messenger used for emergency notifications, Remind for safe texting between staff and students and families, Microsoft Office Suite, and Adobe Creative Suite. The levy also supports the district-wide Blackboard/Schoolwires website.

Obsolete Technology Equipment
In accordance with the BISD School Board policy and procedure 6881, the technology department is preparing obsolete nontouch Chromebooks, iPads and laptops for trade-in. The nontouch Chromebooks and first generations of iPads have reached or are nearing end of life support and would not be useable for the start of the 2019/2020 school year. They have trade-in value now that is of benefit to the district. The laptops were originally purchased in 2006 – 2009. They no longer run enterprise level software reliably yet do have trade-in value. The credit received from device trade-ins will be applied toward the purchase of new devices.