BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee
FROM: Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology
DATE: May 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Expenditures in 2016-15 of Funds Allocated
             to Technology from the *Berkeley Public Schools Educational
             Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP Resource 0862)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In compliance with *The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP/Measure A), nine percent (9%) of the available revenues of the Measure are allocated to three purposes: Professional Development, Educational Program Evaluation, and Technology in schools. Currently Technology receives slightly more than a third (3.24%) of the 9% allocation.

The following recommendation is for the allocation of funds for the Purpose of Technology in accordance with BSEP Measure A, Section 3C:

… providing and maintaining computers and technology in schools. All costs attendant to providing these services are permissible.

Program Objectives
Up-to-date technology is a vital asset for Berkeley Public Schools in several ways:

EXCELLENCE:
The appropriate use of technology broadens thinking and problem-solving skills, improves access to information and communication, and provides opportunities for self-direction to take research and learning in new directions.

Technology in schools can also improve school efficiency, productivity, and decision-making on all levels, from the teacher in the classroom, to grade-level collaboration, to principals and school leadership.

EQUITY:
Access to technology is an equity issue - all students should have opportunities to engage with current technology.

ENRICHMENT:
The use of technology helps schools meet the needs of all students with opportunities for differentiated instruction and expanded options for learning and expression.

Program Summary
The programmatic goal of these funds is to support technology used at the school sites. Staff provide expertise in integrating technology into classroom practice; provide hardware and software support to school teachers, staff and administrators, including instructional technology and information systems such as PowerSchool and Illuminate; and provide funds and ordering assistance for school technology purchases made by school governance councils and committees.

A Technology Workgroup consisting of Assistant Superintendent Scuderi, Tech Director Jay Nitschke, Library Coordinator Becca Todd, and Instructional Tech TSA Allison Krasnow convened to create a plan for professional development for teachers around instructional technology, focusing on the upper elementary grades in 2016-17. Todd and Krasnow chaired a 3-day planning session with elementary teachers, instructional coaches, and principals. The resulting plan for staffing classrooms where the Chromebooks are available constantly throughout the school day (1:1), with teachers becoming Google Certified Educators is an exciting outcome of this work.

Other developments during the 2015-16 school year:
Common Core State Standards (CCSS) continue to be implemented. These standards incorporate guidelines of how all students need to be
ow all students need to be
ow all students need to be

Some schools have aggressively addressed the need for keyboarding and other computer literacy skills, other schools have not. A keyboarding curriculum continues at many of the elementary schools.

A significant staffing addition was made starting on October 1, 2016. The position of Technology Supervisor was created to expand and supervise the work of the School Techs.

Wireless coverage was much improved in all schools with the installation of Ruckus Wireless access points that utilize the latest protocols and have larger radio arrays than previous wifi access points, providing wireless capacity to ensure all classrooms are able to fully utilize a computer cart.

SMART GOALS for 2016-17 include:

1. All 3rd-5th grade teachers will learn to integrate Google Classroom at a staff meeting in September, led by their Technology Teacher Leader.
2. By September 2016, all 3rd-5th grade classrooms will have a 2:1 ratio of Chromebooks per student, with 1 cart shared between 2 classrooms. In 4th and 5th grades, teachers who have become Google Certified Educators, will have additional Chromebooks for a 1:1 student to device ratio. Additionally, at least 75 K-12 teachers will attend the DIgiTech August Institute with workshops led by BUSD teachers.
3. At least 70% of 3rd-5th grade teachers will become Google Certified Educators by September 2016.
4. All 8th grade teachers will have a 2:1 ratio of students to Chromebooks, and will use technology weekly with students.
5. At least 75% of middle school math and 6th grade science teachers will attend STEM-focused professional development in August 2016.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS for FY 2016-17

Staff   **$645,836**

School Computer Technicians	6.20 FTE
Technology Supervisor	0.75 FTE
Instructional Technology TSA	0.50 FTE

School Computer Technicians   6.2 FTE

The job of the technicians is to work with teachers and staff to keep computers, tablets, projectors, printers etc. working, to help integrate technology with the curriculum, to support teachers using the Illuminate and PowerSchool, as well as to help technology committees and School Governance Councils make decisions about technology money.

     2.0 FTE positions are at BHS (of which 0.2 FTE is for BTA and BIS),
     1.6 FTE support the middle schools, and

2.6 FTE supports the elementary schools and preschools, and provide support for site technology purchases.
Since all but one of these are 10-month positions, an extra $3,000 is budgeted for extra duty work over the summer.

Teacher on Special Assignment – Instructional Technology   0.5 FTE
Since 2010-11, a TSA for Instructional Technology has been co-funded by Technology, BSEP Professional Development and other funds at 33% each.