ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #132 (1999-2000) December 13, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

PERTINENT FACTS:

On January 29, 1999, the Anchorage School District School Board approved the ASD Instructional Technology Plan. The key components for Year One implementation of the plan are:

- the acquisition of 2,500 computers through a lease or service type contract to be allocated according to established priorities;
- the allocation plan was to prioritize senior high schools first, middle schools second, and high need elementary schools third;
- the allocation plan was to bring senior high schools up to a 8:1 ratio of students to computer; the middle schools to a 10:1 ratio, and elementary schools to a 12:1 ratio.
- the addition of a building level technology coordinator (.5) FTE for all middle schools;
- the addition of six building level technology coordinators to be shared by all of the elementary schools;
- the addition of one building technology coordinator to be shared among the alternative schools and programs;
- the addition of two microcomputer specialists for Districtwide support;
- and, the addition of one network support specialist.

2,500 Computers on a Service Contract

The implementation of the Instructional Technology Plan began shortly after the January 29, 1999 Board approval of the plan. A Request For Proposal was developed and sent to prospective contractors for computer services to include 2,500 Apple or Dell computers, software and related services. This was followed by a formal bid process, which resulted

in the selection of Apple Computer as the contractor for computer services. Apple was to provide both Apple and Dell computers, including installation, extended warranty for the life of the contract, installation of designated software on each computer, and asset management for the life of the contract.

The allocation of the 2,500 computers was based on a computer equipment survey conducted in January 1999. Information from the survey identified the number and capability of computers in each school as well as provided a means to determine the student to computer ratio at each school. The additional computers will lower the student to computer ratio to: 8:1 at the senior high school level, 10:1 ratio at the middle schools and 12:1 at the elementary level.

In August, school representatives were given the opportunity to attend presentations from both Apple Computer and Dell Computer to determine which type of computers best suited their school needs. Schools could choose either iMacs or Dell computers or a mixture of each. Information was collected from each school and an order was placed at the end of September for 2,047 iMac computers and 453 Dell computers. The distribution was 589 iMacs and 439 Dells at the senior high school level, 367 iMacs and 5 Dells at the middle school level and 1,022 iMacs and 9 Dells at the elementary level.

All of the iMac computers were delivered to a warehouse the first week of October. The delivery of Dell computers to the warehouse will be completed by the end of October. The installation of computers began at East High School the second week of October and all other high schools will be completed by the first week of November. An average of 55 computers are being installed each day with as many as 87 (West High School) being installed in one day. A delivery schedule has been worked out for all schools. The priority for installation is senior high schools first, followed by middle schools and elementary schools. These schedules were determined by geographic location and the number of computers scheduled to be delivered at each school. Installations at all schools will be completed by December 17, 1999.

A copy of the allocation and installation plan for all schools is attached (Attachment A).

Building Level Technology Coordinator (.5) FTE at each Middle School

During the 1998-99 school year, a full time technology coordinator was added to each high school staff. The role of the coordinator is to support technology integration in all curricular areas. The success of this program led to the expansion into the middle school program. The plan includes the addition of a .5 FTE at each middle school to support technology integration. Each of the middle schools hired at least a half time technology coordinator. In some middle schools, additional portions of an FTE was taken out of the staff allocation making the coordinator position somewhere between a half to full time.

Six Technology Teachers to Support Elementary Schools

Six elementary technology teachers were hired to support the integration of technology in the elementary schools. Each of the six teachers has ten elementary schools assigned to them. The technology teachers are spending the equivalent of a half-day per week at their assigned schools. They have assisted the schools in developing the individual school staff development plan for the integration of technology, assisted in the revision of the individual school technology plans, provided direct delivery to students, assisted teachers with technology, troubleshot hardware problems and assisted with other building technology needs.

One Building Technology Coordinator for Alternative Schools and Programs

Year One of the Instructional Technology Plan provided for one technology position to be divided among the six alternative schools and programs. Each school or program utilized the funding or combined it with internal school funding to identify a person and arrange time during the day for the individual to provide technology support to the existing staff.

Two Microcomputer Specialists

Two Microcomputer Specialists were hired to provide system hardware and software support associated with the implementation of the 2,500 additional computers. These two individuals contribute both on-site support and phone support to all schools experiencing problems with their computers.

One Network Support Specialist

A Network Support Specialist was hired to provide additional network support and help troubleshoot network problems that arise at various locations in the District. With the completion of basic networks in all facilities in the District, this is a critical need.

In summary, Year One of the Instructional Technology Plan has been very successful to date. All of the support staff provided by the plan have been hired and are in place. The 2,500 computers acquired through a five-year service agreement are being installed according to schedule. All of the 2,500 computers will be installed and operational by December 17, 1999.

Electrical Upgrades Status

The current status of electrical upgrades at secondary schools authorized by ASD Memorandum #317 (1998-99) is as follows:

Chugiak High School	$142,500
East High School	$480,000
Service High School	$378,000

Chugiak and Service High Schools are being designed by Hay-Zietlow as subconsultants to Bezek-Durst-Seiser, designer of record for the future renovation projects to insure coordination with this future work. East High School's designer is Humphrey & Associates through Winchester Alaska. Design is approximately 80 percent complete with bid advertisement scheduled for October 26, 1999 and bid opening scheduled for November 16, 1999.

Bartlett High School	$461,000
Benny Benson	$178,000
Dimond High School	$288,000
King Career Center	$249,000
Save High School	$84,000
Stellar	$153,000

Contract negotiations with the design professionals responsible for the renovation at Bartlett High School was not successful in having this work performed as an amendment to their contract. An RFP was initiated for all these projects to obtain design services and the selection process will be completed by November 19, 1999. Design will be completed during November and December, with bid opening scheduled for January 13, 2000. Construction completion is scheduled for June 2000 for all projects.

Construction will prioritize Fire Marshal citation items first and continue with the upgrade of electrical and data network systems to meet the technology plan requirements. Long lead items such as panelboards, blue colored outlets, and data termination devices (six week lead time) will be ordered by the District to be supplied to the contractors. This process will insure we obtain the product we need for standardization at a volume discount price not available to the individual contractors.

The schedule for construction activities will be after school hours, on weekends, and during school holidays. "Safety first" will be the driving factor on these projects. The District's inspection team will be working schedules coincident with the construction contractors to verify student accessible areas are left in a safe condition following every work shift and to allow timely direction to be provided to the contractors when questions arise.

Coordination and design review meetings with the principals and tech coordinators have been ongoing during the design process. Construction coordination and safety meetings will be scheduled weekly to insure that communication is effectively maintained.

A schedule for all schools in the District addressing the current status of electrical and communication system upgrades is provided (Attachment B).

BC/CC/NDH/MF

Attachments: Attachment A | Attachment B

Prepared by: Norman Holthouse, Executive Director, Technology/MIS

Mike Franks, Manager, Major Maintenance

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction