

September 2014
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School
Technology Plan: July 2014 – June 2016

Technology Committee

The technology committee was formed by the Governing Board of Directors as an ad-hoc sub-committee of the business and operations committee of the Board in January of 2014. Its charge was to develop a multiyear technology plan for the school in support of the school’s mission and vision. The committee met approximately eight times over three months to inventory the current state of our technology and develop specific recommendations. The current technology committee is comprised of the following members:

- Cheryll Booth, EC technology specialist
- Mike Boardman, MC technology specialist
- Erik Droutman, parent
- Jill Hanson, EC library media specialist
- Jim Draughn, parent
- Kari Lovell, Director of Business Operations
- Lindy Settevendemie, MC teacher
- Mitch White, governing board member and committee chair

In addition, the chair of the of the business and operations committee (Gabe Damiani), the executive director (Matt Underwood), and the president of the PTCA (Rebecca Hudson) have been regularly copied on all committee correspondence and activity.

In order to ensure execution of this plan and continuity with its conclusions, the current technology committee recommends that the committee become a standing committee, with regular meetings scheduled monthly or quarterly starting in the 2014-2015 school year. The committee should regularly update the Governing Board at least twice a year.

Technology Vision – a teacher and student-driven approach

As a member of the Coalition of Essential Schools, ANCS is committed to personalized instruction based on individual needs and interests as well as the performance of authentic tasks. As a hands-on, constructivist community, we view technology as *one tool* to promote personalization, project-based learning, and authentic assessment. Teachers and students are empowered to explore creative and varied methods of instruction and learning, some of which will include technology, some of which will not. It is the goal of the school to provide reliable, easy-to-use technology tools to its teachers and students to support their learning goals. Teachers and students are the primary drivers of how technology will be used in a certain learning activity; the vision of the school is to make technology *available* and to provide the appropriate professional development and training to make the use of that

technology effective. Lessons and indeed classrooms will vary greatly in how often and how deeply technology is used, and that variance is consistent with the mission of the school. Our goal vis-à-vis technology is to make sure teachers and students have it available to use at their discretion.

Technology goals for 2014-2017 include:

- Standardizing around Google as our **cloud-based storage, backup and email system** for faculty and staff, and providing professional development for best practices in using the system.
 - Introducing student-managed accounts in the 5th grade (without email) allowing student storage, ownership and management of school work as directed by teachers.
 - Allowing and supporting management of student school accounts to personal accounts at the end of 8th grade as students graduate.
- Installing a robust, **centrally managed wireless network** ensuring reliable access throughout both campuses and capable of supporting several hundred devices connected simultaneously.
- Implementing a **three-year purchase cycle for teacher laptops** so at a minimum all lead teachers receive a new MacBook every three years.
- Maintaining **laptop carts** sufficient to support use during three classes on each campus simultaneously, and support all online standardized testing.
- Implementing a **flexible content-filtering system** that protects our students while giving teachers and staff maximum flexibility to use creative and appropriate websites.
- Implementing a standard, **school-wide anti-virus program** that protects all devices and programs from current known threats based (Potential vendor TBD)
- **Reducing printing and copying** costs while allowing teachers and staff to control what they print via a **print management system** and awareness campaign.
- Implement a **standard student gradebook system across both campuses** when gradebook committee has finalized its requirements.
- Maintain the use of the **current website** to support all public-facing communication needs including teacher websites, blogs, calendars, and other parent, student, and community communication.
- Continue to support the current **Destiny library inventory and management system**
- Continue to support the business office and its accounting system.
 - Ensure routine backup of business office files and programs
- Continue to support having **permanently installed projectors** for use in every classroom
- Continue to support having document cameras available as needed
- Evaluate and support the Student Information System and systems for Development / Advancement / Fundraising as needed
- Explore the **addition of a third, full-time technology employee** in addition to technology specialists on both campuses. Two full-time people currently support the technology needs of 669 students and 93 employees.
 - A primary goal of adding this employee is to **increase the amount and quality of professional development** we can provide our teachers.

Technology Budget:

Various line items on past budgets have corresponded to technology-related items, including telephones, copiers, Internet service, staffing for two full time technology specialists, and miscellaneous equipment and computers. During the past three to four years when state and local revenues were cut to the lowest level in school history, there was no budget for replacement of teacher laptops and many maintenance functions went unaddressed. The technology committee has requested an increase in the annual budget of \$45,000 starting in 2014-2015 to create a three-year cycle of laptop replacement (for teachers), routine maintenance, the implementation of content-filtering and anti-virus programs, and related items. We also incurred a one-time \$24,900 expense in FY2014 to upgrade the wireless network.

Line Item	Category	Description	2014-2015 Budget**
2.3	Telephone and Utilities	Internet Service	\$8,820
2.3	Telephone and Utilities	Telephone	\$4,500
2.5	Gen/Admin	Copiers	\$30,000
2.7	Books/Equip./Furn.	Tech: Service, Training, & Supplies	\$7,500
2.7	Books/Equip./Furn.	Computers: Software/Other	\$7,334
2.7	Books/Equip./Furn.	Computers: Hardware	\$100,500*
Total			\$158,654

*Includes purchase of two new laptop carts and \$45,000 for teacher laptops, anti-virus program, content filtering, and a replacement reserve.

** Excludes personnel costs. Technology staffing for 2014-2015 includes two FTEs; expenses not included above. Third technology FTE may be added in 2015-2016 depending on budget.