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Wayne Page
Vice Chairman

Members:
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dorothy Sutton

December 16, 2014

Mason Kurtz, Legal Fellow
ACLU of Massachusetts
211 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Kurtz,

Re: Request for Public Records Relating to 1:1 Technology Programs

Attached please find numerous documents in response to your public records request (copy attached) dated November 26, 2014 and received on December 3, 2014, "relating to the use of personal technology by students in (our) school district."

In early 2013, I assembled a team of administrators to begin discussions regarding the potential benefits of instituting a 1:1 program in the Auburn Public Schools. In the spring of 2013, the Auburn School Committee established, at my request, a Digital Learning Team (DLT) consisting of administrators, teachers, parents and community members. The goal of this team was to determine if a 1:1 initiative would be beneficial to the students of the Auburn Public Schools and, if so, what devices should be purchased. Concurrently, the School Committee voted to financially support a 1:1 pilot at grade 8 to collect data to determine if such a program had academic benefits for our students.

In the fall of 2013, the Auburn School Committee unanimously supported the recommendations of the DLT, making a commitment to include this item in future budgets. The intention from the start was to provide iPads to all students so as not to disadvantage any child based on his/her parent's ability – or inability – to pay. Concurrently, at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the 8th graders participated in a 1:1 iPad pilot with the impact of that pilot having been extremely positive.

In June of 2014, the parents of the 2014-2015 8th and 9th graders were required to attend a training session which detailed the process that was followed in deciding whether to implement a 1:1 program (see training PowerPoint dated June 2014). Parents were advised that each student would receive an iPad at no cost and have use of it 24 hours/day 7 days/week during the school year. Further, the District would install the required applications and would provide offsite content filtering, as well as the infrastructure to support their use. (Please see the statement regarding content filtering and the CASPER mobile device manager.)

A lease was secured in the summer of 2014 and all parents, except those with a demonstrated financial need, were required to pay the \$40 insurance fee which protects against loss, damage or theft.

Our vision is to educate and prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of a changing world.

With the completion of the new Auburn Middle School in the summer of 2015, iPads will be purchased for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders with the District expanding its lease to provide an iPad to all students at Auburn High School; in effect, all students in grades 6-12 will have a District-provided iPad, the only cost to families being \$40 per year for insurance.

Finally, the District will continue to provide carts of iPads at the elementary grades with those likewise coming at no cost to the students, but being used during the school day only.

After reviewing this information, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maryellen Brunelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Maryellen Brunelle, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Auburn School Committee