

Recommendations of the LTCAC to the Board of Education  
Concerning Technology Use at LT

February 2007

**Based on the information presented to the LTCAC at the December 2006 meeting (please see attached minutes) and the attached survey questions that were posed by Dr. Kelly for table discussions, the LTCAC submits the following recommendations.**

**There were 7 table surveys completed and returned at the end of the evening. Please note that we have given you the majority consensus, where possible, and have otherwise noted additional comments, though those are not “consensus” opinions, but rather are offered for further clarification.**

Technology and Academics:

1. How much academic content should be presented using technology and computers?

**The majority (5/7 tables) consensus is that it depends on the type of course.**

**Comments: 3 of 7 tables suggested 50% as a minimum standard; one suggested 75%, and three tables did not use the percentage option.**

2. Should LT have graduation requirements covering basic technology skills, such as being able to use common software programs, spread sheets and graphs, and internet researching?

**The majority consensus (6/7 tables) is “no.”**

**Related comments: (1) Before considering such a requirement, perform a school-wide survey to determine what programs etc. are being used in each course, as a baseline measurement of what technology the students actually are using. (2) Encourage consistent integration of a set of technology skills at all academic levels.**

3. Should the technology competency of freshmen be assessed and a class offered those not meeting LT minimum requirements?

**The overwhelming consensus (7/7 tables) answer was “no.”**

**Related comments: (1) First, survey freshman teachers to find out if they believe that technology proficiency levels of incoming freshmen are satisfactory. (2) How would you assess such competency? Would you**

add it to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade placement exam? 3) If needed, implement a short, summer program for incoming freshmen.

### Money and Technology

1. How much would be reasonable for the taxpayers to pay for every student to have their own computer?

**The majority consensus (5/7 tables) was “none.” The other two tables selected \$250 or less.**

**Related comments: (1) Parents should pay for this expense either as a component of registration or on their own. Perhaps offer financial assistance for those unable to purchase their own (using same standards for assistance as those used for waiving registration fees).**

2. How often should LT replace its computers?

**Consensus opinion (5/7 tables) is that it should depend on usage.**

**Related comments: For computers with low or average usage, every 3-4 years; otherwise devise a list and schedule for replacement of high usage computers.**

3. Compared to all other spending priorities at LT, where would you rank technology on a 10-point scale, with “10” being the highest priority?

**The average ranking was approximately 6.5/10**

**Related Comments: In terms of prioritizing expenditures for the budget, moneys spent on staff compensation and maintaining physical plant should rank ahead of technology. Technology should have a higher priority monetarily than sports and extracurricular activities.**

### Communications

**The consensus of the LTCAC is that all communications such as school bulletins, email messages, reporting absences, class registration, emergency announcements, summer school info, adult ed info, the calendar and Academic Program Guide should be made via computer, if possible, but that it must be kept in mind that not all families have access to a computer for such information, so you still will have to provide a lot of this information in traditional ways. Perhaps asking parents how they would prefer to receive information – regular mail, or via computer, is an option.**

Additional Recommendations (no consensus):

- 1. Continue Tablet program**
- 2. Purchase more Proximas**
- 3. Have voluntary after-school workshops for staff and students instructing on most frequently used computer programs.**