Why a 1:1 Initiative?

To improve student engagement, improve student productivity and success and to save money

According to Project RED (Revolutionizing Education through Technology) which was supported by the National School Board Association (NSBA), ISTE and the Greaves Group, Karen Cator (former CTO for the US Dept. of Education) and others, those goals are the likely outcomes from a successful 1:1 initiative.

The February 2013 *American School Board Journal* headlined The Tablet Revolution and spoke to the potential to spur and enhance learning for our children. According to that same issue of *ASBJ*, 86% of districts nationally are using tablets and another 9% are planning to use them.

I believe one of the most powerful pieces of this environment is the ability to change daily bell work into real impactful formative assessment. So instead of doing a three minute quiz or assignment for the teacher to take home and grade, the teacher will have immediate feedback related to what the students retained from the previous lesson and, if well designed, if they don't understand, what the concerns or causes of misunderstanding are. Properly executed, this has the potential to make our instructional program incredibly stronger. Another aspect to consider is the capability of student collaboration with other students both in school and globally. According to Project Red:

"Online collaboration contributes to improved graduation rates and other academic improvements. Collaboration and interaction among students have long been viewed as important factors in improving student achievement, and participation in study groups is a good predictor of success in college."

Why not have students bring their own devices (BYOD)?

Currently, as I have met with the staff involved in the pilot, I believe that they need a single uniform technology platform. In order to do this, the school can't rely on parents to provide all the same equipment. At home, families can choose whatever they wish. We need to start with a uniform platform to try to allow the teachers to have the most time to impact learning. As we move forward and tablets become more ubiquitous, we will continue to reflect on the issue of BYOD v. school provided devices. However, to start, I feel strongly that the devices need to be standardized. A side issue is that we would not be able to meet the potential security requirements for PARCC testing with BYOD and we do hope to utilize tablets for PARCC testing. We have selected a tablet that will meet the recommended PARCC hardware and software requirements.

How did we select the ASUS tablets?

Over the last year, the IT staff brought in about a dozen varieties of tablets and we shared the samples at faculty meetings, administrative meetings, etc. for staff to review and respond to us. The staff generally selected the ASUS. Review sources and our early trials with them have supported that recommendation and we feel strongly that it is an excellent choice for us at this time.

Why tablets and not laptops?

As tablets are becoming the mobile computing platform of choice, it seems logical to skip the 1:1 laptop step and move directly to tablets. Several long term 1:1 laptop schools are currently moving in the direction of tablets as well. Currently, Byron and Marengo High School are in the first year of netbook or laptop implementations. Leyden High School District went with Chromebooks. Huntley and Forestview are area districts that have implemented 1:1 with tablets. Several Lake and north Cook districts have implemented iPads.

Will students be able to take them home?

At first, the tablets will be kept at school. However, I anticipate that changing as teachers experiment with online assignments and the students become more familiar with the tablet environment.

How will staffing change?

We plan to rely on the NBMS library staff to assist students and we will repurpose and train one of the current teacher assistants to assist students with the tablets. We do not plan on hiring an additional IT staff person.

What will we do doing for professional development?

The pilot teachers have been working with Lindsay Abbeduto and others to look at options over the course of the year. We sent them on some group site visits and the Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) Conference last month. We have had many informal and a few formal discussions about using the tablets. We are still offering some selected site visits to the teachers involved if they feel it is necessary. We are going to provide some summer training right after school is out on the selected LMS and we are going to send any interested teachers to the Huntley Tablet Academy as part of a team. Overall, I think the teachers involved are excited and eager to move in this direction. The teachers currently have access to a complete class set of tablets as well.

What will the initial cost be?

Worst case costs based upon 150 tablets of the current model are:

Approximate 1:1 Tablet Startup Pricing				
Device\Service	**Cost**	**Quantity**	**Total**	
Tablet	$345.00	150	$51,750.00	New model is $296 ea.
Keyboard Dock	$78.00	150	$11,700.00	We may not purchase keyboards.
Case	$30.00	150	$4,500.00	
MDM	$35.00	150	$5,250.00	The management software to manage rights/security/etc.
Power Strips	$30.00	15	$450.00	For charging tablets in each room.
Extra Power Cords	$25.00	125	$3,125.00	As above.
Wireless Access Points	$600.00	15	$9,000.00	Not all necessary in year one.
Training	$100/day	60	$6,000.00	Upper end cost for summer training and substitute costs.
Instructional Applications	$20.00	150	$3,000.00	Worst case estimate based upon teacher request.
Electronic Text books	$150.00	5	$750.00	Also a planning number.
Learning Management System (Edmodo or similar)	Free	150	Free	The teachers are still working out which system they wish to use. Currently, a number of teachers use Edmodo.
Total, worst case			$95,525.00	
Total (new model, without keyboards)			$76,475.00	*This price may still be lower based upon actual training costs, wireless AP needs and necessary instructional applications.*

How can providing tablets possibly save money?

Tablets will help reduce the use of paper within the classrooms. Digital textbooks are significantly less expensive than traditional textbooks, etc. For example, the district spent more than $13,209.58 in purchasing additional text books for grades 5-12 in Sept. 2011 just to replace those worn out, damaged or lost the previous year. That could purchase more than 30 tablets and keyboards.

An online Introduction to Spanish text has been selected by the NBMS Spanish teacher that would cost $150 for the entire school to use. The last time we bought language books used to replace missing books; we spent $44.95 per used book. If we purchased 60 books, $2697 or nearly 18 times the electronic course materials.

Students currently have to buy a graphing calculator for High School math classes. These cost anywhere from $72-$105.All tablets will have a graphic calculator on them thus paying for approximately 1/3 of the cost of the tablet.