

# DFES PTA Technology Committee



## Technology Committee Update to the PTA General Assembly

**Date: March 11, 2009**

### The Technology Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Sandeep Giri
- Co-Chair: Fred Lewis
- Principal: Michelle Chang
- Member: Simone Peters
- Member: Arvind Rajpal
- Lead Web Site Editor: Christina Kawaakoa
- Matt Chamberlain Web Site Editor

The DFES Technology Committee has been working on repairs and upgrades to the computers in the library and various classrooms for the better part of the school year. Quite a bit of progress has been made, but most of the equipment is very old, so there are limitations on what can be achieved.

Sandeep Giri and Fred Lewis have done the bulk of the repair work, and have made a comprehensive inventory of the technology assets in the school. There's a link to the full inventory on the DFES School Web site.

There are 60 computers available for student and classroom use. All of them are between six and eight years old (very old for a computer). Most have a Pentium III processor, and only 256Mb of memory. We're in the process of upgrading the memory in the library computers to 512Mb of RAM, but that is the maximum that these systems will support. We should begin planning on replacing one-fifth of the systems every year, so that none of the systems at the school will ever be more than 5 years old. With 60 systems on a five year lifecycle, that works out to replacing 12 every school year.

We may be able to write grants, get donations and find other low-cost ways to replace 12 systems per year, but we may also need to fall back on direct purchases with PTA funds. Right now a good-quality, dual-core desktop computer without a monitor (but including a keyboard and mouse) costs about \$350/ea. including shipping and tax. That means that we could replace 12 systems for about \$4,200.00. This seems like a small amount out of the annual PTA budget.

\$350.00	Per computer
x12	Computers
= \$4,200.00	Total per year

Additionally, there is normal wear and tear maintenance that needs to be done on existing systems. So far this year we've spend just under \$600 on additional RAM and replacement keyboards and mice. We should consider this a "recurring maintenance cost" and budget accordingly.

We have not determined what it will cost to maintain the monitors and printers at the school, however many of the monitors and printers are also quite old and will soon reach the end of their useful lives.

A huge amount of labor has also gone into maintenance and repair of the existing computers. While this may decrease over time if the inventory of systems is kept more current, we will still need a large number of volunteer hours from technically adept parents.

In order to approach the problem of keeping all the school technology well maintained and usable, we need to put together a thoughtful and well articulated "Technology Plan" for the school and ensure that it addresses everything from computers and printers, scanners, overhead projectors to network connections and maintenance. The Technology Committee for 2009-2010 is committed to drafting such a document before the end of the school year.

The Technology Committee is also working on registering an alternate "short" domain name that can be configured to redirect users to the school web site hosted by the SF Unified School District for DFES. There is a minimal cost associated with registering a domain name, and funds have already been allocated. We are currently working on selecting a domain name and configuring redirection.