



Council of Darien School Parents P.O. Box 2643, Darien, CT 06820

Good evening. I'm Lisa Cerussi and I live at 12 Rings End Road in Darien. I am a parent rep. for the CDSP Special Education Subcommittee and Darien High School Parents Association.

Thank you Dr. Addley for prioritizing the 1:1 technology devices initiative and budgeting for replacement chromebooks for 3rd - 5th graders, and iPads for 9th graders. We hope that the Board of Education will continue to support this program. We believe that our students are benefitting from this initiative, and that our increased use of digital curriculum resources necessitates ongoing funding of these devices.

Therefore, we must question the Board of Ed's proposal to cut new iPads for 9th graders from the budget. **We strongly feel that it is important to evaluate usage and the overall effectiveness of iPads as a curriculum tool for our high school students. But we believe any action without that evaluation and understanding would be premature, given that the 1:1 initiative is still in its early stages.**

For instance, one tool that is still being incorporated is the Logitech Crayon. The Logitech Crayons allow users to handwrite on their iPads. Students can take notes, complete handwritten math assessments, and write on teachers' digitally delivered handouts or even video presentations. This is a new and exciting way for students and teachers to interact and learn. The Logitech Crayon will also be particularly helpful to some students with IEPs and academic accommodations. But, without the new iPads that support this technology, the value of this tool will not be fully realized.

Additionally, it is unclear how the Board of Ed would expect the District to proceed with the 1:1 initiative without 9th grade iPads, given that curriculum has already been designed to incorporate the use of iPads with Logitech Crayon technology, along with professional development for teachers to utilize these new tools. The rapidly evolving nature of technology will always necessitate that we continue to evaluate and adapt our curriculum and teaching methods to new modes of technology. These unanswered questions are all the more reason to keep the 9th grade iPad replacement in the budget, so that we have sufficient time to gather all relevant information and then propose new ways to move forward, while maintaining the near-term integrity of the 1:1 initiative.

Finally, we support the BOE proposal to cut \$65,000 in replacement chromebook orders. We agree that there is a need for replacement 3rd-5th grade chromebooks to support new state testing requirements. However, we believe that the administration could reduce the order quantity of new and spare chromebooks to better align with projected enrollment, which would free up funding for some of the administration's budget deferrals.

In conclusion, we ask that the district stay the course until we have a better picture of the full 1:1 initiative implementation, including actual usage data. We would like to again thank Dr. Addley and his administration for prioritizing technology within the 2020-2021 Budget and we strongly support this technology investment for our students.