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Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the status of the proposed Neary iPad project.

In order to move forward with this very important initiative in a manner that addresses the concerns we have heard, we have decided to modify the proposed 4th grade iPad project and take a more phased approach. Taking into account both the survey results and the comments and feedback we have received over the last two months, we have decided to implement an initial phase during which we will increase student access to school-owned iPads during the school day by acquiring more iPads for the school. Our immediate goal is to achieve a ratio of one classroom set of iPads for every two 4th grade teachers, as compared to our current ratio of 3 classroom sets of iPads for sixteen teachers (4th and 5th grade). The idea is to enable each 4th grade teacher team to share one set of iPads for their two classes. This will allow for significantly increased iPad access for 4th graders, and we believe that it will create a strong foundation from which we can move toward a 1:1 program for both 4th and 5th grades next year.

Just to be perfectly clear – we are modifying the project so that we are not asking parents to buy iPads for their children. Rather, we are focusing our current efforts on acquiring enough school-owned iPads to give this year's 4th graders significantly increased access. We expect that this will enhance our students' learning for this year and give us a good base to move forward for next year, while responding to parent concerns regarding cost and transportation of the devices.

More details will be forthcoming on items such as timing as we work through the budgeting process required to implement this revised plan.

Thank you for all your feedback and all your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Linda Murdock