

Matt Clements  
Principal  
McAdam High School

David McTimoney

Superintendent, ASW-D

April 14, 2023

Re: Report on DEC funding for laptop purchases

Dear David McTimoney,

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the DEC funding in the spring of 2022 that enabled MHS to add seven laptops to our Middle School technology inventory. These additional laptops provided us with enough technology to begin a 1-to-1 laptop program with Gr. 8 students while leaving some devices available for other Middle School classes when needed.

#### Details of Our Program

- The laptops arrived towards the end of the 2021-2022 school year
- As of the 2023-2023 school year, the additional laptops enabled us to have enough laptops dedicated to Gr. 8 classes whenever needed, while *usually* leaving enough for the Gr. 6 and 7 students as teachers desired
- With the school principal changeover from the 2022 and 2023 school years, it was not known the laptops were intended to be loaned to students; the laptops, then, were made available to students at the school only
- Full-time availability throughout the school year enabled teachers to explore blended learning opportunities – using a combination of face-to-face and online learning – to:
  - Expand differentiation capabilities, especially when finding learning activities to suit the needs of struggling and excelling learners
  - Increase formative assessment data due to the self-assessing and reporting nature of some sites, enabling more ‘real time’ targeted instruction
  - Increase engagement due to curriculum-based digital activities and assessments
  - Increase breadth of programming due to access to digital-only resources and activities (i.e., coding)
  - Enhance the resources available to teach and learn given concepts
  - Increase access to modern, current learning resources, particularly for social studies
- Blended learning was primarily explored in math and science, and to a lesser extent ELA and social studies; it is hoped the latter can be explored further in future years

#### Challenges:

- This funding was critical in providing enough devices for our middle school students to access educational technology when needed given our small-school budget and the current socioeconomic challenges of our community; that said, **evergreening** our laptop supply is an ongoing challenge and concern, particularly as the school budgeting process does not allow for saving money from year to year in preparation for future device needs and replacements

Sincerely,

Matt Clements  
Principal, McAdam High School