

Coventry School Committee

Chromebooks approved unanimously for Coventry students

4-0 vote ensures district will implement one-to-one technology initiative in September

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COVENTRY— The school committee voted 4-0 last night to approve a distribution and professional development plan for teachers in order to provide them with training for the Chromebooks students will be receiving next school year.

For months, educators, parents and school officials have discussed a plan to integrate Chromebooks into the classroom over a three-year-time span.

Coventry Superintendent Michael Almeida said the district is moving

into the initial stages of getting Chromebooks for the classrooms in Coventry and it's a "huge undertaking."

Part of the implementation plan is professional development, he said, and teachers will be given an opportunity to receive knowledge on the technology. The school committee approved three early-release days for the teachers—May 13, May 20 and May 30.

"Now we'll be able to provide teachers with the support to kick-off the Chromebook implementation," he added.

During a February meeting, the school committee voted to award a bid

to En Pointe Technologies Sales, Inc. to provide C710 Chromebooks to the school at a cost of \$227.81 per device.

The goal would be to create an educational culture that is based on numerous models of learning, enhance collaboration between teachers, students and parents, personalize and differentiate instruction, improve student engagement and achievement and expand teaching and learning outside the classroom.

Under the plan software, the application process and technology would be interspersed into teaching and learning; technology devices would be utilized for testing purposes, and

teachers and support staff who embrace technology would undergo professional development, ultimately leading to technology-rich classrooms.

Almeida spoke at a previous school committee meeting about the Chromebooks and how useful they would be for the students.

He explained that students could do their assignments when they arrive at school and each student would be given an equal opportunity.

During the meeting last night, sixth- and eighth-grade students from Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School gave a presentation about different ways

they have used technology in the classroom and at home, especially to learn about subjects such as science and social studies.

The students chose certain sports from the Olympics and presented their research to the committee members.

Almeida explained that projects like these showcase how technology in the classroom can assist students and help them learn new information in a fun way.

Although the middle school has more Chromebooks than other schools in the district, he said, all of the buildings will be equipped with them come next school year.