

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
Best Hopes for Technology based on Community Meeting on January 11, 2002

*The following collective statements use the actual words from 110 individual community members wrote at the January 14, 2002 meeting when given the question, “**What is your best hope for technology students and learning in your community?**” All statements were categorized and smoothed together into the following collective statement again using actual words. When all the statements were put together, no attempt was made to create parallel construction, verb agreement etc. in order to preserve the integrity of ideas expressed. NOTE: A few italicized words were added to provide transitions or clarity. The word “children” was converted to students.*

It is the best hopes of Palos Verdes’ Community for its students that we will develop a uniform, future-oriented out-of-the-box approach to technology’s application to learning that will expose our kids to all possible windows of opportunities available nationwide to assist all students with becoming life-long learners. We will have awareness of the importance of technology for our students with a fully functional system providing tools to prepare kids to succeed in today’s AND tomorrow’s world. Palos Verdes Schools will be able to move and change with the times with a community of committed, passionate educators and learners, citizens prepared to collaboratively connect technology to a greater goal of love and enthusiasm for learning by equipping all of our kids with the needed tools giving access to information and expanded possibilities to all students. We can use the technology to inspire them (students) to push the envelope of knowledge to make better students/people prepared for future success that will lead them to happy productive lives in synch with the rest of society.

It is also our best hope that that our district becomes a model for other districts with unified goals and integrated approach between and throughout all schools. We hope that a vision is well established with each school having a work plan to implement. Each individual school and staff will create a vision for technology based on integration of goals for learning that feed student’s curiosity making education more meaningful and relevant. There is a comprehensive plan for expectations at elementary, intermediate and high school. There is a good working relationship among the technology aides and staff with every one – staff, students, custodians, secretaries and support staff learning with students – being willing to do lots of sharing and using of technology. Technology dissolves the rigid distinctions between student and teacher – we teach one another. The district embraces change; excitement and new opportunities come from helping the children to think and how to use tools, than just teaching facts and how to take tests. We make a ‘clean cut’ of our limb that is stuck in the bear trap of nostalgia and begin instructing now with a futuristic mentality with all students in all grades using technology as a part of everyday learning processes and dynamic environments – not as content – not as an “extra.”

We further hope that kids will leave school with useful knowledge of technology for the real world prepared for their first job with superior skills in adapting and using technology on “day one” more than any other school. Students have knowledge of technology as a tool to maximize and support learning. Technology would support and supplement but not be a separate entity. Technology will promote and encourage the learning process -- used as a tool with the focus is on helping students learn better. The students will be excited about the programs that they use and be comfortable using them all day long – there will be no end to what they are capable of learning. We would expose students daily across the curriculum to all the opportunities available because of technology and give them the tools to take advantage of the ones they identify as being most useful to them. Each student will have a laptop that will be utilized to its maximum potential. Use of technology is a lifetime skill. There will be more “computer classes” for students to advance into the future with skills for evaluating web sites for reliability. There would be consistent exposure to technology for all students in lab on weekly basis; lab instruction is related to curriculum. The basics of working with technology are taught and the kids enjoy using

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technology to learn. Email and websites are being used effectively as means of communications. *Students are able to* know that the information is there and *how to* use networking and resources to access it. Utilize existing computers and software to complement textbooks and SAT9 review. There is continued and effective use of technology with formalized lesson plans in all subject areas to facilitate learning. It will make a qualitative difference in how students learn, what they learn, and how much they retain. Each student will find that “one” significant impact person in the system. Students come out with enough skills and information to have confidence to learn and excel in the field(s) or their choice. Students will realize that technology is the answer, not the tool!

We hope there is money and people (teachers, parents, higher ups) that can work together and give our kids the information to move forward. We are able to keep up with the necessary developments and support with dollars and personnel the technology needs at all our schools. That the schools can keep up to date will all that changes in technology and financially provide for the changes with uniformity for all students.

Finally, it is our best hope that technology will create dynamic, useful, informative environments for students to be successful in their daily lives able to adapt, cope, and embrace the enormous changes *as well as be part of developing the changes*. Each child becomes aware, curious and enabled to utilize technology to complement their skills; further their learning that supports their propensity in life; and enhances individual success in their lives reaching their potential and beyond. All students see “success” as learning becomes individualized with the use of technology. *Technology would* involve and motivate students below the upper margin. We will have some students involved in research-based projects going beyond literacy to knowledge, evaluation and use, accessing information needed to further their study of and open doors of subjects to explore. Technology is a tool used in all areas to explore and respond to what is happening NOW – independent and interaction with others (humanity) *Students* will be engaged in learning – love it so much that they can’t wait to get to school. We want an environment to be created where children can utilize technology to think, problem solve, and prepare for the future. We will promote students to know a positive attitude as they learn tools and skills to absorb and process knowledge, be thinkers and planners, *capable of* being collaborative problem solvers -- thinking critically and divergently, able to be challenged at their own levels to experiment and be resourceful (not be afraid – confident and comfortable with being uncomfortable) as they become self-directed and self-motivated learners.