MEMORANDUM

Date: October 16, 2015

To: Dr. Karen Janney, Superintendent

From: David Damico, Director of Information and Educational Technology

RE: Technology Update

During the October 12 Board Meeting, Mr. Tarantino asked for information regarding any shortcomings or challenges encountered when students were testing (SBAC) with iPads.

Information Technology is not aware of shortcomings or issues related to iPads. The SBAC browser was installed on all iPads allowing students to access the secure testing environment and keyboards were purchased and distributed to schools by the office of Research and Evaluation for use during SBAC testing. Middle schools reported some problems with keyboards not working properly. Those were immediately replaced.

Mr. Tarantino mentioned that High School students who tested in labs (not with iPads) apparently reported having problems with the interactive portions of some math questions. Some students are said to have reported that they knew how to solve the problem but they did not know how to make the interactive tool work on the computer. This raised the question whether the results reported are an accurate reflection of student mastery.

Issues related to the SBAC were not reported to me from sites, Research and Evaluation, or Curriculum and Instruction during or after SBAC testing. All labs computers used for testing were checked for the correct SBAC browser version prior to testing. Computers in those labs met the SBAC minimum requirements.

It is possible that students were unfamiliar with the interactive tools used with some of the SBAC questions because they were not introduced to them prior to the SBAC. It is also possible that some SBAC browsers failed to operate with 100% success throughout the testing window.