Responses to Questions from Joe DeFeo:

1) We know that students learn differently... especially those on an IEP. What is going to be done about those students that are not capable of learning with the computer? I do not mean special-needs, I am more referring to IEP—auditory learners, etc.

   Response: The Individual Disability Education Act (IDEA-2004) is the special education law that has required districts to consider technology needs for all students with an IEP since 1997. Special education classrooms with students with more severe disabilities are currently equipped to meet the technology needs of these students. We would not automatically purchase the same device for all students with disabilities. A team of people knowledgeable about the child's disability and the capability of the device is charged with the responsibility of determining if a device would be necessary. In previous years these devices have typically been purchased with federal IDEA funds.

2) I do not believe that six employees will be even close to the trainers that will be needed to train and nurture 2700+ employees. We have underestimated this. I deal with hotels that have less than 50 employees and they have their own IT person on staff. It is my opinion that this will never work.

   Response: We submitted a proposal we thought was fiscally responsible. We envision a network of support that includes these six positions and the school curriculum coach, the library media specialist, the library media aide, etc. This is a system-wide transformation that will shift the role of the teacher as well as the total educational environment. As we make this transition digital learning becomes the norm.

3) How many people do we need to maintain 30-40K+ devices? If one school has 2000 children and then with all the teachers? I could see one person working full-time at a school on this unless we have replacements in stock and do all the repairs as a depot service (ship them in for exchange/repair). Just would like to know about the logistics.

   Response: We have not proposed any new positions for technical support for the personal device initiative. Should student devices like tablets, iPads, or Chromebooks be selected, we would not require any new positions based on current information. Laptop

1

computers would provide a challenge for technical support, but It is highly unlikely that we will put laptop computers in the hands of all students, even though some grade levels (high schools, for example) may be better served with that type of device. The total plan includes stopping the purchase (or significantly curtailing) of desktop computers at the same time we do the personal device rollout. The staff that currently supports our present inventory of approximately 25,000 computers would be able to transition out from some desktop support to provide support for any new laptops – as the two moves would likely balance each other out. We do not anticipate any new staff in the initial years, and we understand that there are potential savings and efficiencies brought on by our new technology plan model and would have to consider the impact and need for additional support based on actuals – without negatively impacting the General Fund for positions. Also, the possibility exists that technical support paid from capital funds could be written into the RFQ when the devices are purchased.

4) EVERYTHING I read tells me that we can put more students in the classroom but I get the usual resistance when I propose two more in a class to pay for a lot of this. If this really works and it is like having two teachers in a class then we need to look at paying for this with class size if it is implemented.

   Response: As the system makes the transition to digital learning, in time increased class size could perhaps be a possibility at some grade levels.

5) I hope that you do not choose elementary schools as the trial. Many board members have already said that they do not see this in kindergarten-third grade… I agree. They should use iPad carts and learn how to read and write first???

   Response: The details of our proposed budget plan did not anticipate a device for each primary grade (K-2) child. There are many computer-based applications that support reading, writing, and math instruction. We are currently using these in many of our primary classrooms where devices are available.

6) I need to get a list of all the money (including the $27 million) that was earmarked but never used—both in capital and operating.

   Response: See Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY ended 06-30-12—pp. 41 and 65-73. The "Variance" column indicates the difference between the amount budgeted and actual expenditures. (See attached documents.)

7) Cost to implement Personalized Digital Learning at the following schools

    a) The classes that use it now
- The majority of costs for existing PDL are paid with Federal funds and/or grant funds.
- The Compass Learning fee for all students Pre-K through Grade 12 are paid with General funds.
- Achieve 3000 for all fourth and fifth graders is paid with State funds.

Response: Currently the following schools have used Title I funds to create 1:1 initiatives.

Also, Myrtle Beach High School has 1:1 in the PBL Program, paid with District funds (non Title I)

The cost of adding 1:1 to one grade to each of the schools above would be approximately $600,000.

    b) The classes that will use it next year (if they use it now in a particular school/class then they would use it next year). Example: If Whittemore Park Middle School uses it in sixth grade then the cost of it in 6th and 7th in that school

Response: (will be provided in Board packet later this week)

    c) The cost of the rest of sixth grade implementing it in all of Horry County (you may as well break out the cost by each addition)

Response: (will be provided in Board packet later this week)

8) New Tech High School Program... $20K (need questions answered). If we do personalized learning, what is the point?

Response: Attached is a planning year agreement that has not yet been signed. Note the $8500 cost that we anticipate will have increased. In addition, there will be travel costs for the summer training. The $20,000 request would cover the full year of costs.

9) Socastee Cluster IB Exploration... $130,000 (questions... why does it need to be expanded)?

Response: IB has been so successful at the high school that the principals in the cluster believed implementation in middle and elementary would be beneficial to students.

10) Achievement data

Response: (will be provided in board packet later this week)

11) Three school implementation
Response: Aynor Elementary School, Aynor Middle School, Aynor High School

12) Grade level pilot
Response: Sixth grade