

Intradistrict Communication

DATE: June 1, 2016

TO: All Principals

FROM: Administrators of Schools
Ron Bird, Director, Information Systems
Mark Sowa, Curriculum Technology Consultant

SUBJECT: FIRE DANGER - Apple MacBook aftermarket battery

Last week, an Apple MacBook laptop computer caught on fire due to an issue with the battery overheating. This was a potentially disastrous situation that could have had a significant impact on student safety and building integrity. Thanks to the quick thinking of one of Jordan's wonderful teachers, all harm was avoided.



We have since determined that the overheating was most likely caused by an aftermarket battery used in that model laptop. The aftermarket battery was necessary because the laptop was eight years old, and Apple no longer manufactures stock replacement batteries for that old of a machine.

Because we believe it was the aftermarket battery that was the source of this fire, we will be sending computer techs out to your building, immediately, to collect all batteries of this specific make and model. There are about two hundred of these batteries out in our schools, so it is unlikely that any one school will be significantly impacted by this measure.

For schools that do have older MacBook laptops that are affected by this action, you can still use the laptops, but they will need to be plugged into the wall with a power cord. No reliable replacement batteries are available for these machines.

Thank you for your support in this serious safety concern, and remedial action. If you have further questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Mark Sowa.