

Citizens to be Heard Group Speaker Agenda Item Divide Vork Session Item
Agenda date
Agenda item number (NOT case number)
Support 💋 Oppose 🗆 Undecided 🖵
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Topic: Thankyou from
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Citizens to be Heard□ Group Speaker□ Agenda Item□ Public Hearing Item□ Work Session Item
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city: Largo Fla zip: 3373
Topic: Truth,
Email:



Citizens to be Heard Group Speaker CAGenda Item Work Session Item
Agenda date <u>4-26-16</u>
Agenda item number (NOT case number)
Support 🗅 Oppose 🖵 Undecided 🖵
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city: Madeira Beach Zip: 33708
Topic: Middle School Exactlence
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WHAT SCHOOLS MUST LEARN FROM LA'S IPAD DEBACLE

ISSIE LAPOWSKY BUSINESS 05.08.15 7:00 AM

L. A Common Cox Senore Faulkner 4/26/16

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When Los Angeles schools began handing out iPads in the fall of 2013, it looked like one of the country's most ambitious rollouts of technology in the classroom. The city's school district planned to spend \$1.3 billion putting iPads, preloaded with the Pearson curriculum, in the hands of every student in every school.

Less than two years later, that ambitious plan now looks like a spectacularly foolish one. In August, the Los Angeles Unified School District halted its contract with Apple, as rumors swirled that Apple and Pearson may have received preferential treatment in the district's procurement process, something the FBI is investigating. Then, this spring, the district sent a letter to Apple seeking a refund, citing crippling technical issues with the Pearson platform and incomplete curriculum that made it nearly impossible for teachers to teach. If a deal can't be reached, the district could take legal action. (Apple did not immediately respond to WIRED's request for comment.)

Pearson, whose stock tumbled following the news, has publicly defended the curriculum it provided LAUSD, which included digital learning content for math and English courses ¹. LAUSD's director of the so-called Instructional Technology Initiative, on the other hand, denounced the material as utterly unusable in a memo earlier this year.

But while the parties involved continue pointing the finger and picking up the pieces, the important question to ask now is what this fiasco means for the future of technology in the classroom. If one of the country's largest school districts, one of the world's largest tech companies, and one of the most established brands in education can't make it work, can anyone?

Experts who have been following LAUSD's troubled tech rollout say that while this does not mean education technology is inherently flawed, it

does illustrate just how difficult a program like this is to pull off <u>Bather</u> than proving these programs are hopeless, they say LA may have provided other districts and tech providers with an unfortunate, yet vivid, blueprint of what not to do. Learning from LA's mistakes, they say, is critical to ensuring that already resource-strapped schools won't continue spending precious funding on misguided programs.

"No one wants to be the next LA Unified," says Michael Horn, executive director of the education program at the Clay Christensen Institute. "I think that's healthy, and it will get people to pause and learn the bigger lesson."

'The Classic Case'

According to Horn, who also is author of *Blended: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools*, Los Angeles is a classic case of a school district getting caught up in the ed tech frenzy without fully thinking through why technology is important in the first place.

"LA is emblematic of a problem we're seeing across the country right now," he says. "Districts are starting with the technology and not asking themselves: 'What problem are we trying to solve, and what's the instructional model we need to solve it?' and then finding technology in service of that."

At the crux of the FBI's investigation into LA's iPad program are emails exchanged between then-Superintendent John Deasy and executives from Pearson, in which Deasy expresses his excitement about being able to work with Pearson and Apple. The only problem is, the emails were sent a year before LAUSD started the bidding process with other vendors, indicating the deck was stacked before the district had a chance to vet other providers or come up with a comprehensive plan for using and managing the technology.



Citizens to be Heard Group Speaker Agenda Item Work Session Item
Agenda date April 26 - 2016
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Citizens to be Heard Agenda Item Work Session Item	Group Speaker Public Hearing Item
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 Citizens to be Heard Agenda Item Work Session Item 		
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