

## Technology Committee Meeting April 7, 2016

### ***Members Present:***

Patrick Bocking  
Raun Desharnais  
Mark Heidebrecht  
Phil Luporini  
Paddy McCallum  
Gregory Walters

Chris Clayton  
Linda Doerksen  
Kim Kingston  
Sharon MacKenzie  
Nic Weswick

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- Phil started the meeting at 9:05 AM and began the meeting by showing the following videos:
  
  - “6 Cool New Technologies and Inventions 2016”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FxBFPTtWQ&nohtml5=False>
  
  - “The Voice of the Active Learner - Education From a Digital Native's Perspective”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ5Vy9BgSeY>

After viewing the videos, some committee members responded to the content of the videos and how it applies to them, as teachers, and expressed their frustration of having old technology in their schools / classrooms.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the necessity to make good decisions moving forward about how to spend allocated technology money wisely and in such a way that any technology upgrades include allocated funds for software, teacher / E.A. training, support, maintenance and repairs.

### ***State of the Union***

#### ***MyEducation BC Update:***

- Changes / improvements to the functionality is ongoing and more training for clerical staff is scheduled to occur on the upcoming Pro-D day.

#### ***Technology Website:*** <http://tech.sd46.bc.ca>

- Phil asked committee members to encourage all their fellow colleagues to go to the Technology web site to access the ERAC digital resources and Mentorship / Technology training application forms.

#### ***Computer Upgrades:***

- There have been recent student computer upgrades / replacements for Madeira Park, Cedar Grove and Langdale Elementary and three more elementary schools are slated for replacements for next school year. Secondary school upgrades will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### ***NGN (Next Generation Network):***

- Most of the district work sites / schools have been converted to the new network, with the exception of Chatelech Secondary and the Sechelt Learning Centre.

- Gibsons Elementary is currently being switched over to the new network and there have been some issues, which Chris and Jay are working on now.
- There have been some recent packet losses / a network issue at Chatelech, which is being monitored very closely so that a solution can be implemented quickly.

#### ***Xerox:***

- A new machine has been installed at Chatelech. It is a very powerful machine.
- More Xerox machine's need to be replaced soon and Phil will be meeting with Xerox in the near future about this.

#### ***Printers:***

- Phil inquired about the printing issues at Elphinstone / if this is still a problem. Linda said that she will ask the staff about this and will report back at the next meeting.

#### ***Library:***

- Phil asked committee members to enquire with their colleagues about how the library system is being utilized at their schools and report back at the next meeting.
- Phil talked about the extensive features of the Destiny program.

#### ***iPAD Project Update:***

- Phil provided an update about the project.
- There are 10 teachers who have signed up and received iPads to be a member of this group. They had their first training session on March 7th.
- The group will meet again with Sandy on April 21<sup>st</sup> for more training.

#### ***FreshGrade:***

- Gregory informed everyone that SD #46 recently received an innovation Grant from the MOE for 5 schools (RCE, WSE, LES, ESS, KES) to participate in a FreshGrade Project.
- There were questions and discussion about this project.
- Gregory stated that the primary focus of the group is using FreshGrade for Assessment for Learning and explained how FreshGrade promotes / enables students to own their learning.
- Gregory will be giving an update at the next meeting.

#### ***ERAC Resources Demo:***

- Phil demonstrated how the ERAC resources are accessed automatically and explained that immediate log in / access is site specific and happens from all SD #46 school locations.
- Committee members logged in on their own computers and explored the resources.
- Phil asked everyone to check / make sure that they can access these resources from their schools when they return to work and let him know if they can not login or if a different schools' name is indicated at the login site.
- Phil stated that if teachers want to login / access the ERAC resources from their home / another location, they need to ask their principal for the school's login ID and Password.

#### ***Future Applications:***

- Phil stated that it is now necessary for the district to move towards utilizing other applications – from an administration perspective, as well as classroom.  
The following videos were presented to the committee about 2 different applications that are being considered:

**GOOGLE 101 / GAFE (Google Apps For Education):**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiWP\\_C7CX78](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiWP_C7CX78)

**OFFICE 365:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQR9BQ4qZwQ>

After the videos were watched, there was a discussion about the two different applications, how they would be used and possible cost savings:

**Pitfalls:**

- Possible inadequate bandwidth.
- These are cloud-based products; therefore there will be a need for extra security for district.
- RE: Google Classroom – it was stated that some parents do want their children to have Google accounts.
- Phil stated that this application is already being used in the district, therefore there is an urgency to create a district / parental consent form, liability & FOIPPA.

Phil has set up a district Google For Education account and we will be exploring this more. Perhaps we will look at a trial of each system. We also are having discussions with Microsoft for Education and Office 365.

**Computer Versus Computer – Making Educational Decisions:**

- Phil stated that the district is spending a lot of money in technology and there is a need to look at other ways of doing things and perhaps purchase more cost effective types of technology. It is important that district and school money is invested wisely. There was clarification about schools' technology expenses and what the district's responsibility / allocation has been for this school year.
- There was a discussion about how student computers and iPads are being used in the district and the other options that are available / what best suites students' requirements.
- The difference in cost between MacBooks and Chromebooks / IBM computers is significant. Three Chromebooks can be purchased for the same price as one MacBook...Is the low cost going to be offset by the need to replace units more often...other concerns / questions?
- Phil stated that he would like to bring in two sets of technology; Chromebooks and Windows based on a trial basis.
- It was stated that before more money is spent that perhaps there should be an assessment of all the technology in schools, that schools know what is required and what is best practice.
- Training and support for teachers / users and maintenance must be built into next year's technology plan, priorities and budget.
- Phil stated that a strong infrastructure needs to be in place first and that was one of the School District's / Technology Department's major projects for this school year and has been accomplished with the implementation of the NGN.

**Next Technology Planning Committee Meeting Friday May 13th, 2016:**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.**

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