

Technology Committee Meeting **April 9, 2015**

Members Present:

Phil Luporini	Paddy McCallum
Chris Bradley	Chris Clayton
Sandy Magnusen	Patrick Bocking
Janet Bennie	Jay Calvert
Jennifer Goerzen	Mark Heidebrecht
Linda Doerksen	Raun Desharnais
Cathy McCubbin	Janet Meldrum

- Phil started the meeting at 9:05 AM

The Future:

- Phil thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and opened the meeting by showing the following short videos:

<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/19737/20141109/5-videos-show-technology-future.htm>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-school-board-mulls-social-media-policy1.1373706>

Introduction of the meeting agenda

State of the Union:

Destiny:

- The program is moving forward & there is an update that our district needs to enable. Destiny will be integrated into the new My Ed system.

My Education BC Update / Java:

- No more Java so it is ok for all teachers to update the operating system on their computers.
- The operating system Administrative Assistants' computers will be updated this summer.
- Implementation of the new student information system (My Education BC) is going well. It is important to go very slowly so that optimum learning takes place for everyone using the system.
- Phil has offered to train teachers on using Grade Book.
- Parental access to My Ed. BC will be implemented within 1 year. Teachers have control over what the parents will have access to view.
- My Ed. BC has many features that will be implemented slowly.
- Phil plans on doing trials with some features like student portfolios / drop boxes with specific teachers / schools. (There are many teachers in the district that are using Fresh Grade.)

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

- Phil showed the Technology Website and the different sections / links / updates that are now on the website.

Computer Upgrades:

- There have not been any district computer upgrades due to financial constraints.

- Some schools have purchased new iPad Airs and are experiencing difficulties with new operating system / compatibility with the carts. The district is buying back some of the older iPads & selling to other schools for \$300 each – including cases.
- There have been some issues with water damage with iPads and computers and some iPad batteries have failed.
- Chris Bradley stated that students continue to remove the letter keys from computers and asked that teachers be vigilant when computers are signed out / checking that they are returned in good condition.
- At this time, there is no budget for new student computers / replacements for next year.

iPad / App Deployment:

- Jay explained how the new iPad App Deployment works (JAMF). Apps are purchased in volume and then deployed electronically, so Apps are much quicker to deploy. iPad updates are also done electronically. The technicians are starting to configure the older iPads in schools to the new JAMF system.

NGN (Next Generation Network):

- The district is moving ahead with upgrading the network.
- It is expected to be set up / switched over in September.
- It will produce faster speeds.
- The bandwidth & firewall security will be controlled within our district. The Paloalto servers will control SPAM centrally. Telus will provide an extra level of protection.

Xerox Replacements:

- Due to other projects taking place this school year, it has been decided that the next Xerox replacements will be delayed until next Christmas break.

More Bang For Our \$:

- It costs approx. \$10 per student for district teacher / student resources such as Kurzweil, Learn Now BC, etc.
- There is concern that teachers are not using these resources enough / the cost outweighs how much these resources are accessed by teachers.
- It was suggested that more workshops for training / exposure to these resources could be tied in next year with the new curriculum Pro-D workshops.
- It was stated that Learn Now BC is too cumbersome and time consuming for teachers to access.
- It is not user friendly. Teachers use U Tube because it is easier. (Phil will provide feedback to Learn Now BC regarding this.)

Other:

- Linda stated that there is concern about printing at Elphinstone Secondary. More access to a printer is needed for students & teachers upstairs. Everyone is very frustrated.
- Phil stated that adding another printer is a school decision and the district would recommend that a Xerox machine be leased, as it is more affordable & for control purposes.

App Vetting Form:

- Phil described the current process for purchasing Apps for iPads. Schools spend a lot of \$ on apps that do not ever get used, therefore it was decided to create an app vetting form for our district.
- Sandy researched what other districts have in place and created a draft form for teachers to complete before approval / request be submitted to the Tech department for purchase / deployment.

- Sandy circulated a draft copy of an App vetting form and asked for feed back from the committee.
- There was discussion about how teachers could have the opportunity to learn more about the apps that they would like to purchase.
- It was suggested that a list of apps with the associated location and contact person be posted on the Tech web site so that teachers can connect with each other to gain more information.
- There may be some iPads that teachers could borrow to try out an app. (Sandy and Phil will follow up to determine what is possible regarding this matter.)
- It was stated that teachers are allowed to purchase apps with their Pro-D funds as well.

Social Media Policies:

Introduction: “CyberSafe With Steve Dotto” Video:

<http://www.learnnowbc.ca/lNBCresources/cybersafe/default.aspx?u=1>

- Phil stated that safety is the primary focus for all users who are using social media within SD #46 and that there is a need to develop a Social Media policy. Some districts have separate policies for students and staff.
- Phil reviewed and distributed documents (and posters) from other districts regarding policies on Social Media and asked members to provide their input.
- Patrick mentioned that SD #46 employees are covered within Policy #5630 “Maintaining a Respectful Workplace”.
- A district social media consent form needs to be created for those students who are utilizing social media within classrooms. We need to ensure parents are informed / give permission for students to participate in social media.
- It is important to ensure that FOIPPA rules are not broken.
- A suggestion was made that perhaps employees should receive social media training and FOIPPA review.
- Phil showed the following video from Learn Now BC about student safety and social media:
<http://www.learnnowbc.ca/files/Videos/VideoResources/ShowHTML5Video.aspx?w=856&h=480&sid=71>
- There was a consensus that there is a need to develop a simple and specific social media policy for students, a pamphlet and a consent form for parents / students.
- A draft SD #46 Social Media policy / pamphlet and consent form will hopefully be ready for review for the next Technology Committee meeting.
- Phil asked members to email him any recommendations or portions / clauses from the distributed documents that could be added to the draft policy or consent form.

Next Meeting Showcase Suggestions:

- Phil suggested that a BCTF representative give a presentation on Social Media safety for the next meeting.

Next Technology Committee Meeting: May 7th @ 9 AM.

- *Phil thanked the committee members for coming.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.
