

Technology Committee Meeting **January 15, 2016**

Members Present:

Patrick Bocking
Jay Calvert
Raun Desharnais
Jennifer Goerzen
Sharon MacKenzie
Paddy McCallum
Nic Weswick

Chris Bradley
Chris Clayton
Linda Doerksen
Phil Luporini
Sandy Magnussen
Janet Meldrum
Vanessa White

-
- Phil started the meeting at 9 AM and began the meeting by showing the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ73ZsBkcus>

https://www.ted.com/talks/james_veitch_this_is_what_happens_when_you_reply_to_spam_email

State of the Union:

MyEducation BC Update:

- Phil reported that all schools in our district have switched over to the new student information system and everything seems to be going relatively smoothly, however the system does not have everything that we want. The system requires some improvements or enhancements.
- Phil talked about the provincial committees he stands on. The SMC executive, and the Standards Enhancement Committee. This committee's mandate is to ensure improvements are made in MyEducation BC. The current priorities are for improvements to be made to the attendance and report card modules, as well as determining the best way to offer support for schools & users. The software enhancements will take time. There is currently about \$100,000 that has been provided for enhancements with a further \$400,000 for the next fiscal year.

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

- Phil stated that there has been many improvements / additions made to the website and development is still in progress. More will be shown later in the meeting.

Computer Upgrades:

- There is funding and a set plan in place for student computer replacements / upgrades in the district.
- The first school slated for an upgrade is Cedar Grove Elementary.

iPad / App Deployment – includes books:

- Improvements have been made to the way the Technology Department deploys APPS.
- Within the next few weeks, Phil and the technicians will be looking at ways to provide even more improvements to the process.
- Jay stated that currently there is approximately 391 iPads (in the district) that are registered in the JAMFF system.

NGN (Next Generation Network):

- Phil stated that most schools switched over to the new network. He has not had an opportunity to follow up to see if there has been a noticeable improvement at these schools / work sites.
- Vanessa stated that the network is functioning better in her Support Services office at Kinnikinnick Elementary School. Before the switch over the network kept dropping and that no longer is happening.
- Raun stated that there is still a problem with not being able to connect to the network in the portables at Halfmoon Bay Elementary School. Phil stated that they are looking at installing a new wire out to the portable to provide a better connection there.
- Chris Bradley mentioned that there seems to be sporadic breaks in the network at Elphinstone Secondary School and an investigation is ongoing to resolve this issue.
- Phil reported that Gibsons Elementary, Chatelech Secondary School and the Sechelt Learning Centre have not switched over to the new network yet.
- Phil explained that Jay is spending much more time on the NGN; therefore Kim has been re-assigned to West Sechelt Elementary School and then listed off the schools that each technician is currently assigned to.
- Jay provided more information about the new network works and how is better than it was before. The speed is the same but the bandwidth is better.

Xerox & Printers:

- Phil reported that many Xerox machines were replaced at various schools or locations over the Winter Break.
- New Xerox printers were also added to various locations. No color printers – just black and white. These are very good printers. Phil reminded everyone to not unload the packages of paper out of the boxes, as this allows more moisture to be absorbed into the paper.
- Phil stated that employees or teachers' personal printers are not permitted into the school and explained that the district is trying to be as green as possible or reduce the amount of student printing.
- A discussion ensued about the need for students to have access to their own printers in schools. It was stated that sometimes teachers will print confidential documents and students should not have access to these printers.
- Various solutions or options were presented and discussed.
- Nic suggested that perhaps a representative from Xerox could do a presentation at a future meeting about how schools can save paper or about other possible green options. Phil will follow up and make an enquiry.

Other:

- Phil explained why it is important for each school to have a separate computer for teachers to use. Teachers / E.A.s should never use student computers for school business.
- Phil stated that he will brain storm with the technicians of how to provide a computers for TOCs / temporary teachers at all schools.
- Phil displayed the Technology Website on the screen and went through the various new items and resources that are on the website.
- Phil showed the link to the ERAC resources and asked everyone to help get this information out to teachers; tell them what resources are available and how to access them.

Play Time & Coffee Break:

- Phil invited committee members to go on their computers and log on to the Technology website and explore the various links and resources that are available.

- Jay and Phil spoke some more about the new network. Jay explained that the responsibilities that used to be handled by PLNET have now been handed over to us. Our school district will have direct control over our own systems. Currently, the ability to login to the district networks / IP addresses from home is not available, however this will change in the near future.

Informed Consent & FOIPPA:

- Phil talked about the concern about online security, the importance of protecting our data, how school / student information is stored on various platforms that are used in the education system and the legalities that are involved. Various documents were presented and discussed.
- Here is the web link for those documents: http://tech.sd46.bc.ca/January15_2015_resources/
- Many school districts in the province are creating “Informed Consent” documents for parents to sign. Phil described what “Informed Consent” means and the liabilities that school districts face when student information is stored outside of Canada on various platforms like Google Docs.
- Jay stated that there is a very good Netflix video called, “Terms and Conditions May Apply”.
- Going forward we need to be very careful about how we develop a district policy / process regarding this issue.
- Phil asked all committee members to go to the West Vancouver School district web site to select the “Policies and Procedures” link to review and explore the different information that is provided.
- Phil asked committee members to provide suggestions to assist in the development of a process / procedure where due diligence is followed and the board and students are protected.
- Various options / suggestions were discussed and information was provided about what platforms are currently being utilized by teachers in this district.
- Phil will be having further discussions with Patrick about this issue and hopes to present a draft district document or process at the next Technology Planning Committee meeting.

iPad Project:

- Sandy spoke about and handed out information about the iPad Project. The goal of this project is to support technology integration in the classroom in order to enhance and improve student learning and achievement.
- Teachers will also be able to have educational technology training during the upcoming Pro D days.

Phil concluded the meeting by showing the following U Tube videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbNHcn2gHQ4> 5 Technologies of the future
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NNbotA1QOw> funny trends

Next Technology Planning Committee Meeting Thursday, February 25th, 2016:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.
