

## Technology Committee Meeting January 26, 2017

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

Patrick Bocking	Chris Bradley
Jay Calvert	Chris Clayton
Jennifer Goerzen	Kim Kingston
Phil Luporini	Sharon MacKenzie
Paddy McCallum	Carolyn Spence
Nic Weswick	Vanessa White

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- Phil started the meeting at 1:12 PM and welcomed everyone who was in attendance. He opened the meeting by showing the following video:
  - <http://www.flippedinstitute.org>

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

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

- MyEducation BC continues to be used in the district and improvements continue to be released.
- There are a few more high school teachers that wish to use GradeBook.

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

- The Technology Web Site continues to be updated and modified.
- Phil reminded everyone to refer this web site to obtain important information.

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

- Great news! All the Elementary Schools now have upgraded student computers.

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

- All schools have now been converted to the NGN.
- Chatelech was the last school that was converted over the Winter Break.
- Phil asked everyone how the connection has been at various sites / Schools.
- Nic commented that U-Tube videos no longer have to be pre loaded before showing them at meetings at the school board office.
- Phil stated that there are slow downs periodically and the technology team continues to monitor the network.

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

- A new Xerox has been added to the book room at Elphinstone Secondary School.
- There was a major problem with the Xerox machine at Cedar Grove Elementary School at the beginning of the school year and this situation has been resolved.

- The problem at Cedar Grove highlighted the need for the district to have a spare Xerox machine; therefore Phil negotiated with Xerox and has obtained a spare photocopier to use in the event that another copier in the district becomes out of order in the future.

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

- Phil stated that printers are starting to creep back into classrooms.
- The concern is that schools are spending a lot of money on old printers and these printers are not always environmentally friendly.

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

- The Destiny library system has been updated.
- Jennifer commented that the library computers at Halfmoon Bay Elementary are very slow at times and the clerical staff is sometimes unable to scan books.
- Kim will investigate this issue and will continue to monitor this situation now that she is aware.

#### ***TETT iPad Project Update:***

- Phil stated that Sandy is sick and could not be here today.
- Vanessa read a message from Sandy regarding the TETT Project and other ongoing initiatives.

#### ***ERAC Survey:***

- Phil stated that he would like to send out a survey to teachers to enquire about how often the Erac resources are utilized.
- There was a discussion regarding the level of awareness that is out there / if teachers know how to access the resources.
- Phil stated that there are still some issues that ERAC knows about regarding the ERAC resource interface and demonstrated how confusing it is to access some of the resources.
- Nic is on the ERAC executive board and stated that they are aware of the problems and are working on how to make this better for users. In the future ERAC hopes to provide outreach in order to train teachers how to use these resources.
- Phil stated that some of the solutions are that ERAC opens the access within the range of the districts' IP addresses but this makes it difficult for staff to access outside the district...and passwords are required.
- In the future, we may be able to have a direct link / access to the resources through sharepoint.

#### ***Coding:***

- Phil showed a video and shared the following web link from Raun Desharnais, which demonstrates and explains how coding is 'fun' for students in his classroom.
- <http://sd46halfmoonbaycodinginquiry.edublogs.org>

#### ***New Email / Sharepoint (The Future ways for SD #46 to Communicate):***

- Phil logged into his new "Outlook" email account to show everyone what it will look like.
- Phil stated that his primary goal is to alleviate any stress that anyone is experiencing with the upcoming change.
- Phil demonstrated and explained how to add events directly into the calendar from emails.
- Phil explained that there will be a lot of change, but there will be more improvements and that school staff will still be able to have mail conferences similar to FirstClass.
- Outlook will be better than FirstClass and will have greater capabilities to connect and utilize Sharepoint...more info next month.

- Phil asked Technology Committee Members to take turns, go around the table and express their concerns or thoughts and how they are feeling about Outlook and Sharepoint and how it will affect their jobs / co-workers.
- There was discussion about the concerns, the transition process of these new applications and the best ways to provide support, information and training (on how to use these new applications) for all district employees.

***Other:***

- Phil explained that the Technology Department is looking into purchasing a new IT Service / asset management system.

***Microsoft Office:***

- The new / updated 2016 Microsoft Office Software will be installed on all district computers.

***Other Concerns / Questions:***

- Phil asked Technology Committee Members if they had any other concerns or questions.
- Jennifer asked when / if teachers will be getting new computers. She explained that some teachers are experiencing stumbling blocks or problems with their computers and iPads.
- There was discussion about the technology tools that are being provided to teachers and EAs and how those tools help them do their jobs.
- There was further discussion about best ways to deliver support and training.
- It was stated that it is important to report any technology issues or problems to the Technicians / Phil.

***FreshGrade:***

- Phil provided an update about the district FreshGrade project and the process for loading new students and teachers into the system.
- It is expected that next year it will be a much quicker process.

***Appazur:***

- Phil provided an update about the Appazur project and provided information about the new Pender Harbour, Chatelech and Elphinstone Secondary Schools' Apps and how they will be used / maintained.
- Phil stated that he hopes to provide a demonstration at the next meeting.

***Support Services Update:***

- Vanessa stated that most students' IEP have been implemented. Tara Doyle has been training the Special Education teachers on how to use MyEducation BC program.

***Papercut:***

- Phil provided an update about the new printing management software that will be used at Elphinstone Secondary.
- This software allows for controlled printing and stops students from over printing or wasting paper.
- Chris Bradley is overseeing the installation of this software onto the student computers.

***Training for Casual Library Clerks:***

- Jennifer asked if there can be barcode / book labeling training provided for casual clerical staff and there was discussion about the process in which this training is provided. Casual training is dependent on length of stay in a position. This will be referred to HR.

***Computer vs Computer:***

- Phil stated that every school has different technology needs. It is very important that principals know what their schools need and what they want the devices to do.
- There was discussion about where we are going in the future with technology - Chromebooks, MDM solutions, cloud based solutions, Google apps, the difference between consumer technology and production technology, etc.
- Stay tuned.... there is more discussion to come in a future meeting.

Phil closed the meeting with a reminder about the importance to think about the basics of technology for students.

***In conclusion – Phil presented the Technology in SD 46 document (see attached): Technological Communication Changes - how we communicate with students, parents and ourselves is a main priority.***

***Next Technology Planning Committee Meeting Thursday, February 23rd @ 1 PM:***

***For the next meeting, Phil hopes to have a Chromebook computer to show everyone and that Sandy can demonstrate co-writer & snap & read to everyone.***

***The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 PM.***

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Fall 2016

# Technology in SD46

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## Engaged in Learning

*Investing in new technology to improve student learning only works if we also invest in training & support of our staff*

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*Our students will have the technical and social skills to navigate current and emerging technologies to enrich their learning*

## Investing in the Future

Our Technology Plan has evolved over the last few years to adjust to changing technological needs of both our staff and students. This year we will review our current Technology Plan recognizing and continuing our key priorities:

### Network Infrastructure

Every year the district reviews the infrastructure in terms of connectivity and bandwidth utilization

- NGN switch over almost complete
- Wireless network adjustments (eg: Davis Bay)
- Continued switch replacement

### Computer Hardware

- Elementary Computer replacement is almost complete
- Secondary school solutions need to be addressed next
- Large influx of iPads purchased by schools
- Server replacement

### Other Technology Hardware

Schools will continue to purchase other technological solutions to aide and enhance learning.

### Security

Security of our data continues to be frequently scrutinized. We need to continue to ensure our servers, switches and security software are up to date.

- Computer security
- Internet safety
- Storage and retention of information

### Software

- Assistive Learning strategies –change to Co-Writer and Snap & Read
- ERAC Digital Buddle
- iPad App deployment
- cloud based storage within the district
- the new 'Office/Word'

### Training & Support

The district continues to develop a training / professional development model

- technology learning events
- SetBC
- TETT project
- Technology and the New Curriculum
- FreshGrade

## Technological Communication Changes

As our changing technological demands evolve...we must make adjustments in the way we communicate between ourselves, to parents, to the community and to our students. This will be a year of change in the methods we use to communicate.

- New email system
- New calendar system
- The start of new web sites
- New collaborative storage
- Google storage within district

As with all change to ensure there is a smooth transition we are planning

- new servers, fiber links and technological training is taking place
- transition plans with lots of overlap
- clear communication...the seed is planted...more info to come
- transference is being developed
- training / instructions are being prepared
- flexible timeliness if we feel we need to adjust

...stay tuned...

Demo:

- email...the new look
  - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZsh7SH0dM4>
- Co-Writer and Snap & Read