

**Technology Committee Meeting**  
**June 2, 2015**

***Members Present:***

Phil Luporini	Carolyn Spence
Chris Clayton	Chris Bradley
Sandy Magnussen	Patrick Bocking
Cathy McCubbin	Jay Calvert
Jennifer Goerzen	Mark Heidebrecht

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- Phil started the meeting at 1:10 PM and reviewed the meeting agenda, as displayed on the projection screen.
- Phil opened the meeting by showing the following funny short video:  
“*The Future Technology*”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17DPJHNVx2Q>

Phil stated that this is a good example how quickly technology changes and that we need to make sure that the district purchases the right type of technology.

Phil shared the following web link for good videos and information regarding digital literacy and citizenship:

- <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/videos/super-digital-citizen>

Phil displayed an the elementary poster, “I am a Digital User”, as an example of the type of that the Technology Department will be purchasing for schools to post in their schools / classrooms.

***State of the Union:***

***Destiny:***

- Jennifer stated that after the upgrades the system is working better and the only outstanding concern is the need for upgrading the memory of the library computers. Phil stated that this task will be one of the technicians’ summer projects.

***FirstClass:***

- FirstClass has been re-indexed and everything seems to be functioning properly.
- A FirstClass upgrade is coming up and there will be some more improvements. This will take a few hours and an alert will be posted beforehand.

***MyEducation BC Update:***

- Updates are continually happening in the new system.
- Phil and Chris met with the Secondary Admin. Assistants recently for a training session and continue to provide ongoing training for all user groups whenever possible.
- There have been fixes to the report card, attendance label, and other functionalities. Stay tuned for more updates.

- Phil stated that he will be looking for a pilot class / school to begin to implement Elementary Report Cards, along with the District Leadership Team to ensure that the criteria coincides with the new curriculum.
- Cathy asked if the system is able to not have letter grades and Phil said yes. It has the capacity to match the new curriculum and we can have a comment-based report card.
- My Education BC also has a digital portfolio component and Plans on asking a class to pilot / test this in My Education to see if this could be integrated in our district. Phil would like to select a teacher who has used / is currently using FreshGrade to compare the two programs.

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

- Phil thanked those committee members who have added more information to the Technology website.
- Phil asked if anyone on the Technology committee would like to tweet out technology updates – Sandy and Chris volunteered.

**Computer Upgrades:**

- We may move forward and upgrade student laptops and operating systems, depending on next year's budget.
- Apple prices have increased due to the American dollar.

**iPad / App Deployment – includes books:**

- *This topic is covered in the Technology Plan section.*

**NGN (Next Generation Network):**

- We currently have a Palo Alto employee here, working on the servers and getting the infrastructure ready for implementation.
- Preparation will be continuing throughout the summer.
- Telus will be coming in to work on schools' interior infrastructures. A set of upcoming meetings has been planned, along with weekly calls and updates from Telus.
- Network capacity after the upgrade will see speeds closer to 100 instead of the current 30 Mb service at the larger schools & 10 Mb in smaller schools.
- The Technology Dept. will be able to set up district-based firewalls, have better security, control and management of our network.
- The Maintenance and Phoenix buildings will be included in the new network.

**Xerox:**

- Phil met with the Xerox reps last week to address concerns regarding the printing issues and problems that have been occurring with the new Xerox machines.
- Xerox will be going around to each of the schools to address the specific and will provide training to staff if required.
- Phil will be adding training videos to the Tech Website for users to learn how to utilize the different functions of the machines.
- Xerox apologized for not following up adequately after the deployment of the new machines.
- Phil has a follow up meeting booked.

**Other:**

- Sandy stated that it is important that teachers who use technology as a teaching tool for students in their classrooms make sure that the accessibility features on iPads/ computers are turned on. Sandy continues to teach district staff how to use technology in the classroom to enhance students' learning experience.

- Ann Chow's classroom (at Langdale Elementary) has been chosen as the Set BC Classroom project recipient for the 2015/16 school year.
- Set BC will offer .5 day of training to administration & provide online sessions for teachers about Digital Citizenship.
- Sandy is working closely with Bridges and Set BC to organize upcoming workshops for our district.

#### ***App Vetting Form:***

- Sandy handed out the updated App Vetting Form and discussed the changes that were made.
- This form has been given to a teacher to utilize and provide feedback.
- After the final changes have been made, we will be placing this on the website and introducing it to principals and administrative assistants at the district Operations Workshops in August.
- Mark asked about the status of the development of district Mobile App. Phil stated that we are holding off on until we receive more information on the capabilities of the MyEducation BC program. Apparently it provides all the same features that an App would provide.
- Cathy stated that she has the MyEd BC Mobile App for her iPhone and that it does have the capacity to provide a lot of information about school / classroom, etc. events.
- Phil will be providing a presentation to school principals as soon as the training has been released from MyEducation BC.

#### ***Social Media Policy - DRAFT:***

- Phil displayed and reviewed the revised, draft Guiding Principles for Electronic and Social Media Communication document.
- There were requests for changes or revisions to two sections.
- Phil stated that after these changes have been completed, the document is to be distributed to school principals in August, so that it can be introduced to students and parent in all schools in September.
- This document is geared more towards intermediate students and Phil will provide school posters with similar information for primary students.

#### ***The Technology Plan – Year 3:***

- Phil displayed and distributed Technology Plan – Year 3.
- Phil went through each item of the plan and highlighted the revisions and additions of the plan as we move forward in planning for improvement and increasing capacity of technology in our district.
- The key focus point are as follows:
  - Infrastructure: We are constantly upgrading and adapting to our usage of technology and the NGN will provide a better infrastructure for our district.
  - Hardware: There is an increase in the cost for a computer cart to approx. \$40,000 per cart.
  - Currently there is not any money allocated in the budget from the district for computer cart replacements at schools.
  - Security: iPad Apps are now pushed out to iPads electronically through the Jamff system. These Apps can be reused / reallocated to other iPads / schools in the district.
  - ERAC / Learn Now BC: This portal continues to be an issue for teachers.
  - Training and Support: Staff training and support for will be the primary focus for the Technology Department and Committee next year. Phil stated that we need to be creative in the way we deliver training, such as providing video links / pod casts on the Tech web site. Sandy will work on the best ways and time to provide training for EAs. Perhaps during prep time, pro-d days and mentorship.
  - Discussion: There was a discussion about the merits of the use of technology as a tool to support learning and different learning styles and if there is measurable evidence that

technology improves students' learning. It was decided that technology is one method that is used to support learning for learning for students.

- Phil ended the discussion by stating that we know where we need to go and that he intends to follow through with the Technology Plan as outlined.

*Phil ended the meeting by thanking the committee members for their continued support and commitment as we move forward to improve technology in our district.*

*Phil also recognized and thanked Cathy McCubbin for her contribution to the technology committee, as she is retiring at the end of this school year.*

*Mark also thanked Phil for all his hard work and stated that he is doing a great job. Everyone heartily agreed!*

***Next Technology Committee Meeting – Fall 2015:***

***The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.***

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