

Technology Committee Meeting May 7, 2015

Members Present:

Phil Luporini	Linda Doerksen
Chris Clayton	Janet Bennie
Sandy Magnussen	Patrick Bocking
Layne Mitson	Jay Calvert
Jennifer Goerzen	Mark Heidebrecht
Vanessa White	Raun Desharnais
Nic Weswick	

- Phil started the meeting at 9:00 AM
- Phil began the meeting by showing the following short videos:
 - *The Future*
- <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/19737/20141109/5-videos-show-technology-future.htm>
 - 10 Future Technologies that will change the world:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMymFYJWW5M>

Introduction of the meeting agenda

State of the Union:

Destiny:

- Concern on Destiny are:
 - The latest update caused a slowdown on scanning barcodes, however it is now operating properly.
 - New computers in libraries are a school responsibility, but what might speed them up would be increasing the memory in machines. Individual schools can put in a Tech Request for this upgrade. There is potential for new computers / at least adding increased memory for the library computers.

FirstClass:

- FirstClass has been re-indexed and the search function is now operating properly.
- People need to be careful how they specify your search criteria when trying to find emails / documents.
- It may be possible for the district to look at other email systems / options after the NGN is complete, but we are a couple of years away from change.

MyEducation BC Update:

- MyEducation BC implementation continues to move forward in the province.
- Minor fixes are implemented to the system frequently.
- There is a provincial committee being created for developing a standard elementary report card.
- There has been an issue about the lack of communication when there is an outage and Fujitsu is addressing this concern by releasing a survey.
- The district is fully implemented.

- Parent access will be delayed until teachers are fully trained.
- SPED / IEP training coming up.
- Linda expressed concern regarding how tedious it is to add comments to report cards and Phil stated that a fix is being worked on – to add comment codes / search function. The code numbers do exist but they appear differently than we are use to.

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

- The minutes of the Technology Planning Committee Meetings have been added.

Computer Upgrades:

- The district has a replacement schedule plan for school computers and hope that funding might be allocated for these upgrades.

iPad / App Deployment – includes books:

- The App deployment program is running well, however not all iPads are set up in the Jamff system. This will be a summer project.
- There will be more discussion coming up regarding the App Vetting Form.

NGN (Next Generation Network):

- The implementation is progressing and we are looking at different prices for the switches and are trying to get the best price possible. There seems to be a large mark up on these products.

Xerox Replacements:

- Phil has expressed concern to Xerox regarding issues that have not been rectified from what was originally promised by the company when the district purchased the new machines.
- They are looking into the function of allowing remote printing by teachers / students.
- There are controls in place to allow a maximum number of pages that can be printed at one time.

Other:

- The Apple iPad workshop that took place during the last Pro-D Day, April 10, 2015, at Gibsons Elementary was very useful.
- One key recommendation by the presenters was to assign each iPad to a specific student. This is very useful to track students' work, problems or damages to the iPad.
- The iPad case is difficult to label and the Technology Department is researching how to fix this.
- Set BC projects are taking place throughout the district to support students in learning with technology. There will be one project offered per year.
- Sandy has won a software package from SET BC for a school license of Co Writer.
- Aging equipment continues to be a concern by teachers.

App Vetting Form:

- Phil projected the DRAFT App Vetting Form on the screen for everyone to review.
- Phil explained the need for a form and that it needs to be a simple process so that it does not deter teachers from asking for the App.
- There was discussion about the process of submitting the form and it was stated that it is very important that there is communication to all users about why this new form / process has been implemented.

Social Media Policy - DRAFT:

- The Draft copy of the **Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication** guiding principles document was circulated and displayed on the screen for discussion.
- Discussion followed regarding these aspects of the document:
 - Should this be a policy within Regulation 1600 / just a guideline of expectation of behavior?
 - There should be an expectation and teaching of behavior / conduct versus a demand. It was stated that these guidelines / expectations be more about education than regulation.
 - Is it necessary to have the students' and parents' signatures? Nic recommended that the signature section be removed completely because of a possible liability issue.
 - It was suggested that the document be less wordy – keep it to one page & as simple as possible.
 - It was suggested that the introduction become a summary and should be relocated to the bottom of the document.
 - It was recommended to remove the definitions / terms.
 - How will these guidelines be taught / reviewed? It was suggested that the document could be added to students' planners. It could be reviewed at student orientation day. Teachers could review or incorporate the guidelines in lesson plans at the beginning of the year.
 - Patrick suggested rewording the terms “friends, enemies” to “fellow students”.
 - It was clarified that this is a code of conduct of behavior relating to electronic / social media communication.
 - The discussion was summarized by stating that a process needs to be implemented in order to ensure that this information is shared with students / parents.
- Phil stated that a final DRAFT copy of these Guiding Principles, along with an outline for the process of implementation / instruction, would be shared at the next meeting, with an expectation that the document would be ready for implementation into schools for September 2015.

Looking forward to Next Year's Technology Plan / Focus:

- Phil presented & discussed the following video regarding Technology & Learning:
“Does Technology Improve Learning”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZHXciqjg74>
- Due to technical problems, the following videos were not shown, however Phil discussed the content and stated that the web links would be made available in the minutes:
“Is technology a positive force in enhancing student learning? The good, bad and the Ugly”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuZpi2J8GCM>
- “New technology causes concern about effect on childhood development” - News Hour
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpBdQQIPCJg>
- The committee agreed that Technology is a tool that used to enhance the learning experience of the student.
- We have a technology infrastructure in place and now the Technology Planning Committee needs to focus on and prioritize the training, support and mentorship of others.
- We need to focus on offering many ways of improving skill sets and training teachers and EAs.
- The following ideas were shared about how the district can expand SD #46 staff learning experience so that they are comfortable using technology in the classroom:
- Thursday afternoon workshops or training sessions could be offered again next year - and rotate through different topics.
- Specific training workshops for teachers & EAs could be organized for Pro-D days for next year. There could be a focus on sharing in house expertise during district days.
- It was stated that EAs need more training in how to use iPads and that more computers and iPads need to be made available to EAs. It is important that training be offered during the regular workday, EA school meetings / prep time or on Pro-D days.

- Sandy Magnussen could be available for in class mentorship of using technology in the classroom. Perhaps other committee members could have release time to provide the same kind of mentorship.
- There needs to be an opportunity / venue for staff to access tips and tricks, videos on use of devices. i.e.: “Remember to use Google to find the information you are looking for!”
- “Tips of the Week” can be added to the website, with an archived file for previous information. It is important to add a search option if possible.
- Raun stated that during the last school Pro-D day his staff expressed concern about the amount of money spent on text books that are now outdated and asked if there is an option / opportunity for the district to purchase / have access to digital textbooks.
- Phil stated that there is a need to review what is available and do we have access to it. McGraw & Pearson are going to create digital textbooks, however they would require a commitment. It would be important to review the details on who and how the information would be available. Destiny may be an option / possible resource to access textbooks.
- A committee needs to be struck next year to explore the options available to the district and potential costs. Then perhaps proceed with having school / classroom trials of using / accessing digital textbooks by mid-year.
- It was stated that digital literacy is imbedded into the new curriculum and could be a driving factor behind asking the school board for support.
- Raun stated that technology engages learners. It is not about what you / students know – it is vital to recognize the importance of what you do with that knowledge; for teachers to guide students to be critical thinkers with their learning and determining what is useful information.
- Kathy Schrock’s website (Educational Technologist) provides great lesson plan videos / resource for teachers to utilize. A link could be added to the Technology website.
- Vanessa and Sandy recently attended a presentation by Dr. Jordan Tinney (Superintendent of Surrey) where he challenged educators to create their own digital footprint to inspire students on how they can be creative. The software Samar Model and FreshGrade are allowing teachers to change their assessment practices while incorporating the new curriculum model.
- Phil summarized the discussion by stating that it is clear that any increase of the budget should be related to increasing capacity & learning. The Technology plan will reflect this as we move forward into next year.

Phil ended the meeting by displaying and speaking about the following cartoon:

- Technology has changed how we operate in our daily lives.



Next / Last Technology Committee Meeting of the school year: June 2nd @ 1 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.
