

District Technology Planning Committee Meeting

November 16, 2017

Attendees: Phil Luporini (District Principal of Technology and Student Data), Jay Calvert (Tech Department), Chris Bradley (Tech Department), Janice Budgell (Tech Department), Sandy Magnussen (Technology Inclusion Teacher), Braden Blackmon (TOC, SCTA), Nancy Sharkey (Teacher-Librarian, SCTA), Linda Doerksen (Teacher, SCTA), Raun Desharnais (Teacher, SCTA)

Welcome and Regrets

Introductions – new members

Coding discussion - Grant money available last year and some again this year. Discussion in regards to different possibilities for this year's grant. On November 30th there will be another group session for those that were involved in the project last year. It will take place afterschool and more information will be sent to those involved shortly.

Phil - Brief overview of the technology plan

- **Infrastructure:** NGN One, now NGN Two (increased bandwidth)
- **Wireless connection:** Guest network, added APs, moving towards some upgrades, newer APs (primary difference is the number of connections that can connect up). If there are areas in the district where there is poor connection, please let Phil know.
- **Hardware:**
 - o **Student laptops** (MacBook Pro carts). There is now a replacement plan on a 6-year rotation mainly for elementary schools.
 - o **iPads** have been popular at elementary schools (approx. 650 in district). Raun spoke to the success of iPads in his class (taking them on field trips and kids adding content onto FreshGrade directly, developing content). Others expressed that they are being underutilized at some schools. Issues around how students extract the content that they have made using the iPads at the highschool level (not using FreshGrade). Issues with some of the cases. iPads are aging and we will come up against issues with older operating systems not being able to be updated.
 - o Added 300 **Chromebooks** to our inventory in the highschools. They aren't being utilized to their full potential because to use the google apps for education, all students need to have their own accounts. There was some resistance to setting them up originally, so we will be working on moving towards that. Printing also hasn't been set up directly yet. For now they are using memory sticks to print. Should be set up by end of December.
 - o Replaced and upgraded some of our major **servers**. We are also looking into a back up server for our information. Costly.
 - o **Projectors** have been generally standardized across the district.
 - o **Document cameras:** we have just started receiving them again. There was a break in inventory.
 - o **FM Systems** continue to be in use. Juno is most prevalent. Phonak in some schools.
 - o District is moving away from **smartboards**.
- **Security:** Always a huge issue. Every school has a Palo alto system that monitors the content. There is a lot of accessibility, minimal filtering. Blocked our email from Malware and will be blocked from ransomware as well. FOIPPA is always an issue. Anything we do we have to have PIA assessment before implementing them. FOIPPA has recommended that districts do not use Office 365. However, that can be difficult.

- **Software:** Haven't done much except for iPad apps. There may be more in google apps when we get that set up.
- **Training and Support:** we struggle with this. There is no real budget to support training. In discussions for budget next year there will be a push for a full time teacher to support teachers with technology, to help with MyEd and the technical side of their jobs. Small projects, one at the highschool, to get people together in groups and learn about specific things. Questions about budget for in-service with our staffs in regards to the changing technology. For all the new processes and interfaces, we need some in-service as to how it all works. Ideas about banks of TOC's coming in to help with in-service training (costly). Push for administration to take a portion of the admin time in Pro-D to support some in-service training. There was support from district management for this from the last meeting. Ideas about having teachers in schools that are trained regularly and bring back that information to their staffs.

School Websites are in a process of being switched as they are still built off of FirstClass. One of the products we are looking at is called Websy. We will be having a meeting to talk about the infrastructure within the tech team next week. Similar to a wordpress but easier interface.

District Website is a Joomla website. We are in the process of updating it to a newer version. Has been quite a process. Updates have been laborious. Has lead to a discussion of rebranding. Discussions at the district table will be around where we are going and how would we like to be seen.

Resources: tech.sd46.bc.ca, ERAC resources, resources through outlook and engage (Technical Support), Web Helpdesk

Discussion RE: **Engage and Outlook**

Jay demonstrated some of the features of the Engage sites. OneDrive and Newsfeed are not operational at the moment.

As well as student laptop replacement rotation, there is a replacement project going on with the administrative assistants computers, their current computers will be then rotated into the libraries to replace some of those machines.

Question about updating school computer labs. Technology department can support the upkeep of the technology that they have control over, however, school-based budgeting restricts how far that reaches, including updating computer labs.

Linda – spoke to a suggestion of having a part-time technician working out of Elphinstone with a cost-sharing arrangement.

Technology department has a posting out, currently, for an additional full-time systems technologist. Kim has posted into a reduced contract.

Question about Curio. Principals made the decision to not go in that direction.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 15th