

# Technology Planning Committee

May 10, 2018

**Attendees:** Phil Luporini, Jay Calvert, Don Neville, Kim Kingston, Cory Kelly, Nic Weswick, Sandy Magnussen, Peter McConnell, Raun Desharnais, Nancy Sharkey, Rae-dene Pednaud, Janice Budgell, Patrick Bocking, Carolyn Spence

**Phil:** Welcoming and Introductions, Agenda

Video (YouTube) Presentations: Technology Integration in Schools, Technology Changes Everything

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kqBeKO2x-c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3oU5GHPZos>

## Committee Member Updates

**Raun:** Excited to see the Spheros in schools. Difficult to get them physically into the classrooms and there are storage issues and issues with security of the devices. Google accounts / classroom has been implemented in one of the classrooms at Halfmoon Bay which has created a buzz. Staff are learning through that experience. This is Raun's last year on the tech committee and he has enjoyed being on the committee for so many years.

**Kim:** Technology support remains the same. In regards to watching technology come into the classrooms, it has been exciting to see.

**Nic:** MyBudgetFile has been used for the entire district budget for the first time this year. His team is looking at expanding the use of the employee portal and streamlining processes for staff. Excited about the tech plan and setting the direction for tech for the next few years. Not excited about cyber risk. Went to a conference about cyber risk and it was frightening. Passwords have also been a topic of conversation. Download speeds are low at times.

**Patrick:** Communication is a big one. Important part of making sure that everyone stays connected. Student Excellence website is an example of what is currently being updated. SCTA Pro-D discussion there was talk about calendars and making sure that everyone is aware of spaces and how they are booked and making sure that is communicated in a streamline way. Facebook, Twitter, website. Spoke to students at the DSLT about cell phone use in schools. There is mixed feelings about phones from the students. They are definitely a distraction but also a tool that can be used to support learning. Similar feelings to staff concerns. Students supported hard and fast rules in regards to phone use in the classrooms which surprised staff.

**Question:** Can you link your outlook calendar to your google calendar? *You can, however, the functionality is limited at this point.* Discussion about setting up rules in Outlook that mitigate emails going straight to Junk.

**Janice:** Attended MyEd Academy. Lots of talk about educational technology ecosystems and data analysis.

**Jay:** Security is keeping him up at night. Huge part of his job is to keep the data safe and make sure that all servers are running with minimal errors. Sometimes the servers have to go down for an update to make sure that everything is updated and secure. Working on websites. Spoke to server management.

**Question:** How often are servers updated? *Every day the district servers are updated.* How often should teachers back up? *Let the time machine do its job. Generally it will keep the computer updated in a timely manner.*

**Don:** Busy helping everyone with their tech issues and getting everyone up and running with their technology.

**Sandy:** Really busy working with ADST. Secondary schools have some programming hardware lent to them. Looking into creating a loan bank for the Spheros and Raspberry Pis. Doing lessons in elementary classrooms about coding. Supporting classrooms with supportive technology for students with challenges and creating accessibility is a focus right now. Frustrating that CoWriter and Snap & Read are not supported with the new OS update on the laptops. Currently looking into solutions for that. Excited about seeing the literacy support in classrooms through technology. TETT teachers have been stalled due to limited TOCs. Aging out of technology has become an issue. Will be presenting at the Family Expo.

**Cory:** Continuing to learn and grow and support people with their technology needs

**Peter:** Obsolescence. We have hardware and technology that can't be updated. Teacher laptops are old and outdated. 5 years old. Is there a plan for replacement? Questions around whether the laptops are starting to see their end of life. (The tech team is willing to look at these devices that are slow and see if they can be optimized for use) Push by the ministry to learn coding. From the school stand point are we supposed to be offering more coding classes given that class sizes are shrinking due to the enrollment dip. Which leads to hardware questions around whether we provide technology that is broad based or whether the technology is provided for a narrow use. (Generally, most of the technology has the capacity to run a broad spectrum of programs and applications). Is Microsoft Office still the main word processing suite that the district is pushing?

**Nancy:** Appreciative for the additional Spheros and that those technologies are becoming more available at the secondary level. Kids are really interested and engaged. Session on the microbits was super helpful. Goal is to get more Sandy into the secondary classrooms because it is so helpful. Started to host a Lunch and Learn with a focus on technology for staff at Chatelech. First one was about MyBlueprint. Ashley Legault came in and spoke about MyEducation and how to use Gradebook. Rae-dene came and spoke about her google classroom at the last one. Looking for more connections with the special needs kids in the highschool. Lots of solutions out there. Concerns around strength of passwords and how to manage documents within their technology for students. Concerns about free apps not having the amount of storage that is needed for it to be an effective tool. Apps are a constant issue. Supply and demand concerns at Chatelech as far as classrooms using the technology that is available. Spoke about digital books through Destiny. Demonstrated one of the titles within the digital library.

**Question:** What is the name of the digital book service? *Title Wave, Follet Shelf*. Does it have a license and timeline? *Some of them do, some of them don't.*

**Rae-dene:** Echoes what Nancy said. The new curriculum along with the digital books was a really exciting thing for the English department. Upstairs tech issues. Limited hardware upstairs. Issue around whether the chromebooks connect to the network or not. Very hard to track what is working and what is not working because students just get a new one and there isn't enough time to go through and check which units need attention.

Google Classroom Demonstration – Rae-Dene Pednaud

Technology Survey Results and Comparison to 2013/14 – Phil Luporini