

Technology Planning Committee

February 15, 2018, 1:00pm

Attendees: Phil Luporini, District Principal of Technology, Janice Budgell (Technology), Sandy Magnussen (Technology), Chris Bradley (Technology), Jay Calvert (Technology), Kim Kingston (Technology), Don Neville (Technology), Raun Desharnais (SCTA), Nancy Sharkey (SCTA), Nic Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer, Patrick Bocking, Superintendent, Sharon MacKenzie (CUPE), Carolyn Spence (Administration), Mark Heidebrecht (Administration)

Introductions around the table. Noted: new systems technologist, Don Neville.

Video presentation: Using Technologies in Education

Theme for the meeting: How can we measure how technology has improved education?

N. Weswick: Transitioning paper to electronic data. Moved towards online bus registration and learning Traversa software.

S. Magnussen: ADST money. Facilitated sessions in regards to Raspberry Pi's and Spheros and microbits. Two teachers from elementary and two from highschool are involved with the project. Rethinking model for dispersing the technology through the district (technology bank?). Fiona will be starting a Coding Club for high school students, possibly younger if there is interest. Money needs to be spent if there are any ideas. Any feedback, email Sandy. TETT met recently, one teacher from each school meeting to discuss technology.

N. Sharkey: Chromebooks have been at the forefront lately. Teachers would always say that they would like more training and support for all the new technology.

R. Desharnais: Students are doing binary coding leading up to robotics. We will be working on some more screen based programming. Looking forward to hearing more about the spheros, would like some more information. Ongoing concern is just lack of opportunities to learn how to use what we have.

C. Spence: Training would be great. Chromebook session on the Pro-d was awesome. Technology savvy staff use them frequently, other staff are hesitant. Look forward to seeing how it goes after the pro-d session.

J. Calvert: We are making things run faster and better and making sure our hardware is updated to prevent any kind of security risk. Demonstrated how to update Flash player to negate a security risk that has been identified. Flash will eventually be a thing of the past, possibly 2019. It is very laborious to have to update all the computers in the district.

M. Heidebrecht: Nancy implemented a great system to sign out our computer carts. It has been received really well. Issue with some students getting ahold of the hidden network passwords. It has been a long process and are still having some issues getting some students connected again. Office printer was hacked.

S. MacKenzie: We are happy that we got another staff computer in the staff room for the EAs. We have been hearing that there are other schools that have concerns in regards to having access to a computer. There is a lot of talk about training for our CUPE members on the new engage and outlook system, specifically with custodians.

J. Budgell: Working on manipulating student data to track trends.

P. Luporini: Highschool students at Elphinstone and Chatelech have started using MyEd to do course selection for next year. Elphinstone parents have all had parent portal accounts made for them where they can access marks and attendance for their students. Process happening tonight where Fujitsu is merging the parent contacts within our MyEd system so that parents do not have to have multiple accounts to see each child's information. Ongoing issues with internet speed and connectivity.

K. Kingston: Excited to have new system technologist on board. Ongoing issue with iPads. They were brought on board at different stages and are different ages which means some iPads cannot support some new apps and now that we have been updating iPads OS, some of the old apps on there are no longer able to be supported on them so we are having to look into updating licences for the new version of the apps. Question: Can the older iPads be deployed in other areas where they may still be useful without the apps on them?

C. Bradley: Tech Ticket system is only as good as the people that use it. Please encourage people to use the ticket system if they have issues with technology. Staff computers are being worked on right now. Admin assistant computers are being repurposed to the libraries as they get newer machines.

D. Neville: Shadowing and training with the systems technologists. Working on getting Apple Certified.

P. Bocking: Communication. Works with communications officer, who uses Facebook and Twitter and working with the district website. Working with Engage and making that an efficient tool to work collaboratively. Interesting presentation yesterday with Grant Wood, Optometrist, speaking about the implications of screen time for students and staff and the impact on their eyes. Concerns are not so much the constant light, but more the muscles and the internal shape of the eye when you are solely focussed in one spot. Main message was limiting screen time and using your eye muscles in different ways. Get outside and exercise your eyes.

V. White: MyEd changes in regards to IEP plans. Training the special ed teachers on the new format and getting all our IEPs into MyEd.

School Websites: Currently still on the FirstClass system. Are we moving over to a new system? We are in discussions with a company to talk about our needs and what we would like to have implemented. Saw a demo this week from the developer and it was exciting to see what is possible. Looking at a more streamlined process.

Engage and Outlook sessions: Currently planning to facilitate a few more sessions in the south end and during the day for afternoon shift employees. Past sessions have been poorly attended. It is difficult to find the time to put on the sessions as pro-d time is so restricted. Technology department will look at sending out a survey as to how people would like training to be delivered.

Document Cameras: Talked about different models and prices. Different features.

Projectors: Continue to use the EPSON model as our base models. NEC ones are starting to die now and will need replacement. Current model that we are purchasing is the Powerlite 107. No longer using the interactive features on the brightlinks that are in schools as the software isn't supported.

Engage: Quick demo on the search capabilities on Engage. Quick overview of Sandy's site "Inclusion for all Learners".

Password Reset: New process to reset your password. You must put your mobile phone number in your account settings through your outlook mail. When a reset is needed, you send a text message to reset@sd46.bc.ca and you will receive a reset password within a half hour. Then follow the same procedure for changing your password. Note: your mobile number will be visible to those who have access to the directory.

District Website: Overview of a survey being developed to try and figure out how we can best utilize our district website. Any ideas for the survey, please contact Stephanie Murawsky.

Chromebook Demonstration: Sandy did a condensed version of the presentation made on the pro-d day.

Video Presentation: How is technology changing the way we measure student achievement?

Task for committee members: How do we measure the effectiveness of using technology within the classroom? Send suggestions on how we do that (3 per person) and email them to Janice.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:19pm