

TECHNOLOGY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: January 31, 2019

Time: 9:00am

Facilitator: Phil Luporini, District Principal of Technology

In Attendance

Patrick Bocking - Superintendent, Nic Weswick - Secretary Treasurer, Stephanie Murawsky - Communications Officer, John Brisebois - Principal, Carolyn Spence - Principal, Nancy Sharkey - SCTA, Catherine Cooper - CUPE, Sally Simpson - CUPE, Sandy Magnussen - District, Jay Calvert - Tech, Don Neville - Tech, Cory Kelly - Tech, Janice Budgell - Tech

Introductions and Welcome – Phil Luporini

Video – How is technology changing our workplace culture?

District Strategic Plan Consultations – Patrick Bocking

Powerpoint – 2019/2023 Strategic Plan Consultations

Current plan has 27 goals under 3 different sections. A lot of things have been accomplished and the plan has guided the general direction of the board over the last 4 years. The Strategic Plan keeps the board accountable to staff and community. Currently, we are consulting with staff and community to help create our next strategic plan. Have planned about 30 or so meetings to consult with as many staff and community members as possible about what goals they would like to see in the next strategic plan.

Questions posed to the committee:

Tell a one sentence story of something that stands out for you in your K to 12 education (in relation to technology).

What do you think makes for an excellent education for students? (In your experience or ideas can come from anywhere in the world, in relation to technology)

- To have access to the technology that individual students need to help them be successful
- In addition to having access to technology, shortening the gap between having the hardware available and having the support to use it successfully
- Not taking technology for granted
- Resources expanding into digital versions that are easily available to students

- Making staff comfortable with technology so that students can learn from them, sandbox opportunities for experiential learning for staff.
- Having enough hardware that there isn't time constraints on the access individual students have to the technology
- Lunch and learn opportunities so that all staff have access to the information around technology
- Teaching coding

What are the implications for staff, community, and budget priorities?

With these ideas in mind, take a look at our current Strategic Plan and what goals do you feel absolutely need to stay? What goals do you feel should be added to our new plan?

Round Table Update

Patrick – Strategic Plan Consultation. Communication and using technology to move our district forward.

Carolyn – Continuing to try and put devices in student's hands to help them be successful. Some struggles with Google Read and Write.

Stephanie – Communication and connecting with families through social media and the new website.

Sandy – Launching google Read and Write with students this year. Lots of lunch and learns with staff. Great thing about the Google Read and Write package is that the accessible software is built into the macbooks and chromebooks. Finding that staff and students struggle with not using their personal google accounts. To support ADST – presenter to come in and work with Grade 7s on coding. Currently ensuring the Spheros are working. District day this year there is lots of technology workshops and opportunities, maker spaces. Lots going on. District – wide accessibility has been a focus, now with R&W it puts it all together in one format. Lots of built in features that are right there and integrated. It is a culmination of what we have been trying to do through all these years. It is a great product but struggle with rolling out. Lots of great feedback from staff.

Sally – As part of my job, it's access to Dashboard, Engage, Email, etc. The fact that we can access digital copies of staff handbooks is really helpful. One of the things that is great is streamlining things so that it is easier for casuals. Would be nice to see opportunities for online learning.

Janice – More comfortable in her position in Technology. Excited to see where the tech department is going. Would love to see elementary reporting through MyEd but recognizes the challenges of that.

Cory – Project to reconfigure iPads for use for the Education Assistants. Great learning experience. A lot of learning during the process of helping Sandy with setting up the Spheros about the educational opportunities that the devices provide to students.

Nic – Disaster Recovery. Lots of great conversation about what could happen. It's been great and scary. Electronic timesheets for CUPE. Seeing it really pay off in terms of accuracy and efficiency.

Catherine – Lots of reluctance from EAs to use technology they aren't familiar with. Provide teaching to the staff to become familiar and comfortable. Learning to use the software to help support students.

Jay – Looking at resources, making sure that servers are all up and running. We have brought in all the external websites to in house servers. We have also set up SSL certificates for most of our sites. Working on the Disaster Recovery Plan and getting it all on paper as to what we do. Working on teacher laptops and getting them ready for deployment.

Don – Day to day fix and repair as the Apple tech, deploying new equipment. Troubleshooting some wifi issues. Project we have been working on is setting up the camera to record meetings and training sessions. Working on a monthly tech tip for the educoaster. New all electric car for the tech department.

Nancy – Acknowledge and thanks for the google accounts for students and staff. Helps with the roll out for the R&W software and helps with showing students how to use the software. Teachers are very excited about the new teacher laptops. Technology support for the core competencies. Lots of talk about how to support the core competencies and how it is being tracked. Talk about cell phones in the classroom. Ongoing conversation about what is appropriate in the classroom when it comes to cell phone use.

John – Technology is an “exciting, fantastic nightmare”. Difficulties addressing the challenges in the classroom with devices. The power of the device is minimized just because of the training the users have. Students still have limited knowledge of office, and educational software. They are good with using their thumbs. We have many devices but still do not have enough. Teachers and students are eager to learn new things but it is frustrating when some of the class is competent and some of the class is struggling. Online textbooks are a struggle because it increases screen time. Timetabling for next year.

Phil – Showcased the new teacher laptops. Many challenges, including connectors and ports. Lots of challenges around set up and software. It's exciting as we are going to launch a training process for deployment. We really recognize the challenge with training and support. Consideration for on-site and online learning. Adapters have been purchased to accompany the new teacher laptops. Working on the Disaster Recovery Plan. Continue to work on PIAs for software that we utilize in the district. Personal Information Bank. Next Generation Network – heading into NGN 3. Updating access points and improving the wireless network within the schools and sites. Chromebooks – 487 in the district. Elphinstone experimenting with a Flip Chromebook. Looking towards google classroom. Teacher laptop deployment and MDM software.

Question about why secondary schools have to fund cart replacement and elementary school carts are on a replacement plan through the district budget. Discussion about budgets and the implications.

Technology Plan Review

Handed out the Strategic Plan for Technology in School District 46. Touched lightly on what is included. Committee to take it and review and bring back any feedback at the next committee meeting.

Video – Kids react to Old Computers

Next Meeting

April 11, 2019 | 9:00am, Sechelt Learning Centre