

## Information Technology Advisory Committee

June 9, 2020 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting



### Meeting Notes

#### Call to Order 4:35

Carlos Del Valle called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Roll call is as follows:

	Nina Arens	x	Peter Lee
	Marcello Benati	x	Jacob Marzynbski
x	Christine Billroth	x	Molly Meck
	Josh Caldwell	x	Carla Rogers
	TuesD Chambers		Brian Vance
x	Tu Dang	x	Avery Wagar
	Charnjit Dhoot	x	James Wagar
x	Elizabeth Ebersole	x	Roy Zimmerman
x	Carlos Del Valle (chair) Executive Director of Technology	x x	Pauline Amell Nash (co-chair) Marika Wong

- Other Staff Present: Information Security Manger April Mardock, IT Manager Colleen Halvorson Director of Enterprise Applications and Data Services Nancy Petersen.

Marika move to accept the minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Budget

Carlos says the budget hasn't changed since the last meeting. Previously, Carla asked if Technology would be impacted by cuts. At this point, there's no indication the technology budget will be impacted by this time.

#### BYOD – Bring Your Own Device Program

James ask if someone could share the current format for a BOYD program and some clarification on what information the board is asking for. Nancy replied that currently the only school we have for BYOD is Lincoln HS. It was successful and they had parameters for students and families that participated. The machines needed minimum requirements to make sure they could run the applications. The Principal felt having a BYOD program would let the district use district devices for students that needed them. Nancy says if you BYOD it needs to run the software and apps and students are responsible for that. For network connectivity, students used a separate network (SPS Username) that gives them access to all the resources. The only thing they didn't have access to was printers. It started at 40% for BYOD and by the time of the COVID closure it was 30%. As students struggled with their laptops or broke, they were issued a district laptop.

April says some of the problems may have been audio visual issues with the BYOD. Nancy also says some students didn't want a new device. At Franklin, it was still only 85% of the students that wanted district

laptops. One of the ways to stay in the budget and meet the needs of students is allowing BOYD at all levels.

Jacob says one concern with the school devices is they are locked into what printers they work with. For someone who is disabled, it causes some challenges in schools that don't have great accessibility. Nancy is going to follow up on the issue.

Roy ask if Lincoln collected data about their BOYD experience. Nancy says they haven't collected any data yet and the plan was to get feedback at the end of the year.

James says BOYD is in the context of 1-1 devices at high school and middle school. He asks if the question being asked is, do we want to encourage BOYD for students. Nancy replies yes, it is. James follows up that the status quo for many students is that in a non 1-1 classroom, they've been bringing their own devices.

Elizabeth ask if there could be a hybrid situation with a mix of district devices and BOYD. She asks April if there are any IT concerns with supporting non district devices. April says there are a lot of devices on the network. Avery says a lot of kids bring devices at his high school to do schoolwork outside the classroom. He says he's someone that consistently brings a device and it's a pretty common practice and teachers have been accepting.

Pauline asks, considering our current remote learning environment with students at home on devices, has there been difficult supporting students on their own device versus kids on district laptops. Nancy says most of the support has been for applications and software. Pauline ask if the ability to update software has been a challenge. Nancy clarifies that she hasn't seen an issue with that.

Peter ask if the intent is to have BOYD incorporated into SPS moving forward. Are we looking to create a policy that encourages a different way of learning? Nancy says when they brought BYOD to the board, BOYD was a way to help our budget with all the additional devices that've been added. The 1-1 laptop was in the plan for high school but not for middle school. Allowing BOYD to be a big part helps to truly have 1-1. Peter ask if having a higher percentage of BOYD in high school and middle school would help use those devices for elementary. Nancy says 15%-30% is the range for high school BYOD. Peter ask if there is a survey sent to the parents asking how many parents would support BYOD. Nancy says there's been a low adoption rate for middle school students getting laptops.

Nina supports BYOD for high school and middle school. She suggests allowing families to opt out and giving some parents an opportunity to donate devices or offset the cost for other parents.

James says when he was in grade school, the school district said if families made a certain donation, they got a computer at cost. Not sure if it's an option for SPS but it could help the district. He supports BYOD for high school and middle school and all IEP students. With permission, grade school can bring devices as well.

Roy ask what the plans are for gathering data for BYOD. Has anyone reached out to other school districts? Nancy says they've reached out to other districts to learn from them.

Peter ask if anyone is concerned about the capacity for all the devices. April says we're in a good place for capacity. There's a wireless replacement in about 18 months. There's close to 45,000 guest devices on the network now.

Marika ask if there's been issues with student devices and capability and will that limit that type of instructional material that's available for teachers. Also, what kind of use agreements do we have for students participating in BYOD. April says they talked about the use agreement conversion. They'll have to move the agreement to Office 365 for students on non-school devices. At the elementary, the iPad apps are completely different. That's a concern with having mixed platforms within the classroom. This is an issue regardless of BYOD. It's hard to draw conclusions from our current situation because it's different from how things would go during a normal school year.

Elizabeth says she would like to see what's possible with BYOD and what's already happening around the district. She suggests listing ideas that might work and have people comment on them.

Carla ask if why the other school districts did not recommended BYOD. Nancy doesn't know if they've not recommended or encouraged it. The concern was how would they handle BYOD on the network. Over time, so many resources have been online, BYOD became more of an option. One issue is they can't do standardized testing on private devices. They would need laptop loaners for standardized test.

Carlos proposed to put the recommendations together and e-mail the to the group for a vote.

### **Laptop vs iPad/Tablet**

Carlos ask if we recommend laptops or iPad/tablet. Nancy says they've been looking at K-2. The current laptop standard is a tablet that folds with front and back facing cameras. It can also use a stylus or an active pen. The iPad is a much lighter device. There's a lot of questions about applications and compatibility. Nancy says the first recommendation is the regular Dell standard or iPad. The biggest difference between the two is size and weight. Peter says the Dell is a little lighter. Nancy says they looked at the Samsung but it's a new platform. Peter ask if they've done an audit on the applications it would have to support for K-2 needs. Nancy isn't aware of any audit. The main issue for K-2 is writing and learning to write and there were applications on both to help with learning.

Marika says the iPad apps do a better job supporting younger student and are more kid friendly. The young kids won't be able to navigate Schoology and the concern is applications not being at the early learning level and the iPad is accessible for young children. Nancy says one of the iPad cons is they aren't ADA compliant.

Elizabeth says the K-2 issues are a developmental issue. We should be thinking about using a platform that allows for independent use by K-2 students.

Molly says it isn't helpful for K-2 use laptops. Size and weight of the device has been an issue. Storage is another issue with the laptops. Molly continues by saying students will need a simple app that allows them to read, write, voice, and a way to share their work.

Carlos ask Molly, when you're working with the students, are you using the device with each student or all they all on their own device. Molly says she was 2-1 in her classroom and it really changes the way you teach. Molly is still doing the things they would normally do in a classroom. However, it was harder to do in a 2-1 environment. Molly says she's a big a proponent of 1-1 devices at the elementary level.

Carlos ask if a laptop is the right tool for K-2.

Nina says at the museum she saw a lot of students and it gave insight into how students use computers for learning. Nina supports Molly in saying K-1 doesn't do well with laptops. Maybe at Grade 2 they start migrating into using another device. Nina is happy to provide data on the subject. She says by second grade, students should try to transition to a laptop to build typing skills and know how to use a mouse. Nina would not recommend the Samsung tablet because of the apps.

Carla suggest putting together a list of a few options to vote on.

Christine agrees with Nina about the iPad. The students with iPads can navigate easier. She recommends K-2 for iPad and Grade 3-5 for laptops. She's a little discouraged that the middle schools are getting rid of typing classes. Because of that, students learning to keyboard properly lands on elementary schools to teach.

Marika shares an experience about her neighbor's daughter that uses an iPad for school. The student showed a science experiment on her iPad. It was good to see her interpedently access everything she needed to on the iPad.

Nancy ask if it's K-1 or K-2 with an iPad. Christine says it's K-2 with an iPad.

Nancy says during the 2-1 rollout they gave the option of 5 iPad and 7 laptops for K-2. For the 13 focus schools, only two schools chose that option. The board ask would they make the same choices for devices with the distance learning environment we are in now.

Carlos ask if we need 1-1 laptop at younger grade levels. Nancy says keep in mind we may have some distance learning for students if they aren't in school full time.

Christine agrees with Nancy and K-2 1-1 is what she'd vote for. She asks if the budget is allowing for reimbursement or replacement for stolen laptops. North Beach had two break-ins and they lost laptops and iPads. How does that impact the budget? What is the likelihood the schoolboard accepts 1-1 at elementary? Nancy says the current question is if we need tablets at the lower grades and not if we needed 1-1.

Carla motions to consolidate options and have ITAC vote accordingly. James second the motions.

### **Open Comments**

James – Would anyone want to evaluate Schoology vs. potential alternatives. Marika says some teachers aren't required to use learning platforms. James was under the impression that it's no longer optional to not use learning platforms under in current distance learning environment. James says if the user experience is bad for students, it's not great for teachers. Carla would be up for evaluating if their feedback would be looked at.

Carlos says a company is looking at SPS online learning tool. He's not sure if the company will come back with a recommendation or comparisons. The company's feedback should come in July.

Christine ask is anyone has considered the OSPI website for online learning tools available? She wonders if there's anything there that's easier to use than Schoology. Carlos says he's sure the Digital Learning team has looked into it.

Pauline says evaluating Schoology would be beneficial for everyone. Pauline asks if Schoology offers custom UI. Nina says they do have some customization but not much. There may not be room to expand what's already there.

Nancy says some of the school districts use Teams for their management.

James motions to evaluate Schoology with details to be determined. Peter seconded it.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Adjourn**

James motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Peter seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

Monday, July 20, 2020