



District-wide Technology Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021; 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Superintendent Shon Hocker, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, Mr. Jason Rodakowski (School Board), Mr. Brian Ham (DHS), Mrs. Elisa Kensinger (DHS), Mrs. Carissa Decker (DMS), Mr. Bryan Herrin (Berg Elementary), Mrs. Kristi Meidinger (Berg), Mrs. Dessa Russell (Heart River), Ms. Magdalyn Rauser (Heart River Elementary), Mrs. Chantal Heth (Jefferson), Mrs. Rebecca Bautz (Prairie Rose), Ms. Danielle Yon (Prairie Rose), Mrs. Kelly Smith (Lincoln), Mrs. Ruth McCabe (Lincoln), Ms. Emily Bren (Roosevelt), Mrs. Cill Skabo (Community Member), Mr. Greg Jung (DHS Tech. Integration Specialist), Mrs. Lexi Steiner (Elem. Tech. Integration Specialist), Mr. Troy Kuntz (Library Media Specialist), Mrs. Meagan Schlecht (DMS Tech. Integration Specialist), Mr. Mitchell Murphy (Technology Coordinator), Ms. Stacy Northrop (Technology Specialist), Mrs. Laura Hondl (Technology Specialist), and Mr. Ryan Dukart (Technology Specialist).

Members Absent: Ms. Danielle Kappel (DMS), Ms. Alicia Hutzenbiler (Jefferson Elementary), Mr. Brent Seaks (Board), and Ms. Marisa Riesinger (Library Media Specialist).

Call to Order – Superintendent Hocker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – There were no requests to revise the agenda.

Business Topics

Future Technology Needs – Superintendent Hocker requested input from committee members regarding their perspective of SeeSaw and Schoology and if the District could do anything to improve on the technology.

Dr. Hocker explained there are some devices on order that have not arrived due to the high demand. The District is waiting on Swivels and Promethean Boards. The Promethean Boards are ordered primarily for the high school as the high school does not have them.

Mrs. McCabe from Lincoln Elementary felt the iPads worked great for her first-grade students. She felt the first graders were using the iPads in the classroom and at home very well. She suggested the District invest in some nice styluses.

Mrs. Decker extended a thank you to Mrs. Schlecht and Mr. Jung for the time they put into Schoology to prepare it for classes and for the students to have access and have an understanding of Schoology. Dr. Hocker concurred and shared his appreciation for the many things the teachers have done in their classrooms utilizing the tools for which they were not dependent prior to the pandemic.

Ms. Bren agreed that styluses would be nice to have. Her kindergartners need fine motor pieces. She said her students caught onto Seesaw and how to use it. She felt it was a good fit for the kindergarteners.

Mrs. Smith teaches third grade students that have Chromebooks. She suggested the students all have the same device when utilizing Seesaw. Students use a computer mouse with their device in the classroom but do not have a computer mouse to take home with them. It would be nice for distance learning students to be able to take the computer mouse home.

Ms. Rauser inquired regarding the new Smart Boards at Heart River Elementary. She was curious regarding the training on the Smart Boards. Dr. Hocker will check with Mrs. Kathrein regarding the training.

Mrs. Smith felt the fall training was chaotic due to distance training. It would be nice if everyone was on the same page before the training. Dr. Hocker agreed and will see if rosters and lists could be available.

Mrs. Meidinger suggested the training be offered to everyone in the District. She added the new teachers will need training on the Promethean Boards. Mrs. Steiner responded there was training provided this year and all teachers were invited to the Promethean training.

Mrs. McCabe said that a couple of Lincoln Elementary teachers have asked if the Promethean Boards could be raised up so that the teachers didn't have to bend down so far to utilize them and be on their knees. It is also difficult for the students in the back of the room to see information that is low on the Promethean Board. Ideally, it would be great if the boards could be adjustable and slide up for the teacher use and down for the student use.

Mrs. Decker requested a way for the technology to be conducive when students are at home or the teacher is teaching remotely. The students can only see certain things. Dr. Hocker responded the Promethean Boards with the Swivel combination should connect well and make the student feel like they are in the classroom even when at home.

Mr. Harris shared opportunities available in following the HRS framework for personalizing education.

Mrs. Meidinger shared concerns with recording students in the classroom. There are some students who have a parent signed form for opting out of media. Mrs. Smith inquired if the computer labs were being removed.

Mrs. Kensinger teaches at the high school. She said there has been a great amount of time invested in Schoology. She suggested having technology for students that supports the academy model. Chromebooks are not compatible with some programing and coding.

Ongoing Technology Dependence – Superintendent Hocker said that the last nine months have helped the District have a firmer foundation for teachers to personalize instruction. There are many positives that have come out from the technology use. There was great technical support from those coming on board to help students after hours and on weekends. Dr. Hocker stated that technology is a tool that can continue to be better.

Dr. Hocker asked for input to assist as the District moves forward to transitioning back to full-time, face-to-face instruction. He asked if there were strategies that could be used in Schoology or Seesaw so that they are not put on the back burner. Mrs. Meidinger said she plans on having 2-3 assignments on Seesaw every day. Mrs. Smith said with the students all being in the classroom, she could see where flexible grouping could be used with Seesaw.

Mrs. Kensinger inquired if the large number of recordings could be stored for future use or shared with others. Mr. Jung responded, through Schoology, a teacher could copy into their resource and share with whomever they wish. Some teachers have cast their lessons directly to YouTube. Dr. Hocker said he would check on this.

Dr. Hocker said the long-term viewpoint of online learning is that it is not going away. He is hoping there will be assistance from the legislature. The only reason it was done this past school year was due to Governor Burgum's executive order.

Superintendent Hocker noted the District is down over 250 students from last school year. There are also about 450 home schooled students in southwestern North Dakota. If there was a good, robust online learning, the District could be in a position to recruit homeschooled students. This would provide some flexibility for the home school parents. Mrs. Kensinger felt Edgenuity was not a good fit for long-term online education.

Other – Dr. Hocker thanked the committee members for all they do.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.