



District-wide Technology Committee Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2016; 4:00 p.m.
Central Administration Office Board room

Minutes

Members Present: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan (Administrator), Mr. Brian Ham (Dickinson High School), Mrs. Kim Goodall (Hagen Junior High), Ms. Danielle Paiz (Hagen Junior High), Mr. Chris Kovash (Berg Elementary), Mr. Damian Sobolik (Berg), Mrs. Kristi Meidinger (Heart River), Mrs. Laura Kelly (Jefferson), Mrs. Jackie Glaser (Prairie Rose), Ms. Jill Nelson-Wetzstein (Lincoln), Mrs. Ruth McCabe (Lincoln), Mrs. Lexi Steiner (Roosevelt), Ms. Emily Bren (Roosevelt), Mr. Brent Seaks (School Board), Mrs. Elisa Kensinger (DHS), Mrs. Cill Skabo (Community Member), Mr. Mitchell Murphy (District Technology Coordinator), and Mrs. Laura Hondl (District Technology Specialist).

Members Absent: Mr. Tracy Sipma (DHS), Mrs. Andrea Dvorak (Heart River), Mrs. Rebecca Bautz (Prairie Rose), Mrs. Tanya Rude (Board member), and Mrs. Stacy Northrop (Technology Specialist).

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Sullivan at 4:00 p.m.

Review Meeting Norms – The meeting norms were available on the agenda.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda items.

Approval of October 12, 2016, Meeting Minutes – Mr. Ham moved to approve the October 12 meeting minutes, as presented. Mrs. Meidinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

Kayako Report – Mr. Murphy explained on November 26 there will be an upgrade increasing the bandwidth from 400 mb to 1400 mb, an increase of 250%. Committee members voiced concerns with the upgrade happening so closely to the NWEA testing. The upgrade process could take several days for all the systems to be working at full capacity. There were several suggestions shared for a district-wide plan to assist while there is NWEA testing. Suggestions included asking students to turn off their cell phones while in the classroom, reduce the amount of streaming, and reducing the amount of usage during peak hours of 8:30-9:30 a.m. and right after lunch.

Technology Strategic Plan – Dr. Sullivan distributed copies of the technology strategic plan. He asked committee members to review the document and noted the revisions to the document on the first page. Mrs. Glaser referenced under the objectives the area that stated technology services and equipment would be equitable. She shared some concerns with inequality within the district and

used the foundation grants as an example. The technology grants were not consistent across the district. Mrs. Goodall felt that if classrooms were not going to use the technology then the money for technology should not be wasted in that classroom. Dr. Sullivan noted that the conversation regarding technology equity has been in discussions at other meetings and questioned how to navigate the inequity. Mrs. Meidinger felt there should be additional professional development and equitable professional development for technology so that it can be used to its fullest intent. Mrs. Skabo suggested changing the term “equitable” to “standard” adding that anything over and above the “standard” are for those receiving grant funding. Dr. Sullivan followed up on Mrs. Meidinger’s suggestion for equitable professional development. He noted the high school social sciences, sciences, and language arts departments and some of the Lincoln staff and others across the district have spent countless hours of professional development in preparation for the implementation of the technology in the classroom. Committee members suggested an integrated technology specialist with an educational background be teaching the teachers how to use the technology in the classroom and integrate it with the lesson plans. They added that Jeremy with EduTech does a fabulous job but wanted the extra input that someone with an educational background would be able to share. Mr. Ham explained how he utilizes Edmodo to assist him with creating by reaching out to others through Edmodo.

Dr. Sullivan referenced the changes proposed for the technology strategic plan. On page three, the professional development was something this committee wished to further explore. On page two, the word “equitably” would be reviewed. On page two, the technology integration specialist would be explored further. On page two, 21st Century curriculum would also include the curriculum standards at all appropriate grade levels. Mrs. Meidinger stated that Heart River is using some sort of set curriculum that has been developed by the teachers and administrator. She will get a copy of this document for others to review. Mrs. Glasser inquired if there are plans for a district wide standard and if there will be a requirement to teach them. Dr. Sullivan stated that it would be a good idea to have the building level technologist teaching these standards as well as possibly the Library Media Specialists, or it could be a combination of teachers along with building specialists that would assist in the teaching of the standards. Mrs. Goodall stated that there needs to be equality across the district so that all students are learning the same thing per grade level, but there needs direction on what to integrate. Mrs. Goodall also commented that having some sort of vertical planning would be of great assistance to all teachers, so that all the students had the same teaching as they advance in grade levels. Mrs. Skabo commented that there needs to be better verbiage in regards to the curriculum standards on page two of the strategic plan. Mrs. Goodall suggested that it should be reworded to “we will provide/teach 21st Century technology standards at all appropriate grade levels.” Mrs. Kensinger suggested that “using technology with a 21st Century approach/ method” should be worded into the plan. Dr. Sullivan stated that all the input is greatly appreciated and the conversation will continue over the next few meetings.

Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Other - There were no other topics for discussion. Superintendent Sullivan thanked the committee members for their openness and communication shared at the meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes provided by Twila Petersen.