



District-wide Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 31, 2019; 4:00 p.m.
Central Administration Offices, Board room

Members Present: Superintendent Shon Hocker, Mr. Jason Rodakowski (School Board), Mr. Brent Seaks (School Board), Mrs. Elisa Kensinger (DHS), Mrs. Kim Goodall (DMS), Mrs. Kristi Meidinger (Berg), Mrs. Dessa Russell (Heart River), Mrs. Andrea Dvorak (Heart River), Mrs. Chantal Heth (Jefferson), Mrs. Tamara Cottom (Jefferson), Mrs. Rebecca Bautz (Prairie Rose), Ms. Kelly Jahn (Lincoln), Mrs. Ruth McCabe (Lincoln), Mrs. Lexi Steiner (Roosevelt), Ms. Emily Bren (Roosevelt), Mrs. Cill Skabo (Community Member), Mr. Mitchell Murphy (Technology Coordinator), Mrs. Stacy Northrop (Education Technology Specialist), Mrs. Laura Hondl (Technology Specialist), and Mr. Ryan Dukart (Technology Specialist).

Members Absent: Mr. Brian Ham (DHS), Mrs. Danielle Kappel (DMS), Mr. Christopher Kovash (DMS), Ms. Megan Hoffman (Berg), Mrs. Jackie Glaser (Prairie Rose), and Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris.

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

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – Mrs. Meidinger moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mrs. Dvorak seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of March 26, 2018, Meeting Minutes – A copy of the minutes was distributed to the committee members. Mrs. Dvorak moved to approve the March 26, 2018, meeting minutes, as presented. Mrs. Meidinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

AdvancED Engagement Review Report; Standard 3.5 – Superintendent Hocker distributed copies of the draft AdvancED Engagement Review Report. He noted there was a watermark “pending final approval”. The AdvancED committee met on January 28 and will be letting the superintendent know if there are changes to the draft.

Dr. Hocker referenced page 5 of the report, standard 3.5. It states, “The system integrates digital resources into teaching, learning, and operations to improve professional practice, student performance, and organizational effectiveness.” Dr. Hocker also referenced page 7 of the report. In the eleot® observations, the scoring on Digital Learning Environment was 1.51 for the District. For the AIN, or all schools across the country, the score was 1.50. The lowest scores in the District were under this category.

Superintendent Hocker explained the District’s strategic plan was adopted in 2012, revised in 2015, and revised again in 2017. In the last revision, under strategy #5, it specifically lists: “All learners will effectively utilize technology for learning.” Dr. Hocker anticipates there will be

some significant time spent on the strategic plan with potential modifications. He added the District needs to do more with technology than it is doing now. Technology needs to be embedded and more as second nature. Right now, technology is sometimes used as a treat.

Embedded Devices – Mrs. Hondl explained the iPads for second graders were set up in the buildings today. Each iPad has free applications loaded. The applications with a fee attached have not been loaded on the iPads.

Mr. Murphy noted laptops that were to be placed in the buildings have been on back order for a month or so. This was due to a shortage of processors from Intel since last fall. There was discussion regarding what types of laptops are at the high school. The high school has HP laptops and the most recent replacements are Chromebooks.

Dr. Hocker shared his understanding of the devices at the middle school. He understood most every student has access to an electronic device with the exception of one grade. The high school level also provides electronic devices in some classes but not all. At the elementary level, there are some classrooms with devices but there may not be enough for every child in the classroom.

Dr. Hocker is an advocate for technology and computer based learning. He has been working with the District's technologists to draft a plan of implementation to provide more devices in the classroom. He invited Mr. Dukart to present information on a 1:1 initiative with a four-year replacement rotation.

Mr. Dukart stated the proposal would be an aggressive 3-year rollout starting with grades 8, 9, and 10 receiving mostly Chromebooks. Those students would be allowed to take the devices home. Grades 6 and 7 would be close to 1:1. Those devices would stay at the school and returned to home base for charging at night.

During the second year of rotation, devices would be distributed in grades 4, 5, and 6. In the third year of rotation, grades 2, 3, and 4 would receive the devices. The devices would stay with the student moving up through the grades until the student either left the District or graduated. Students would be more accountable for the devices and it would teach them responsibility.

Mr. Dukart explained in the discussion with Dr. Hocker, there could be an option for the student that is graduating to purchase the Chromebook for a minimal amount and the student would then have it available for college.

Superintendent Hocker noted there would be many details and specifics that would need to be reviewed and discussed. After the three years, the devices could be 1:1. Each year, a quarter of the devices would be replaced. The amount of money for this plan has not been identified. Every Chromebook would cost approximately \$300-\$350, including a case. If there are 4,000 students in the District, changing out 1,000 devices a year would cost approximately \$300,000. Currently the District is rotating out about 200 a year. This will be a big difference in dollars. The current devices are anything from Surfaces to Chromebooks to iPads. Some of the dollars

might be allocated out of the funds set aside for textbooks. The District would still need to be creative on the financing and possibly look at leasing the devices.

Dr. Hocker opened the floor to the committee members. Mrs. Meidinger inquired if the District was moving away from computer labs. She liked the idea the students would have a device of their own. Superintendent Hocker responded it would be a hybrid approach. There will be some classrooms that will need a full PC, such as drafting and AutoCAD.

There was a discussion regarding devices and testing. It is difficult to type a 4-page document using an iPad. The transition from the iPad to the Chromebook could be at the second or third grade level. At the kindergarten and first grade level, there would be more partnership with the devices. There could be around 15 devices per classroom in the lower grade levels and students would be sharing the devices.

The new middle school helped get the devices to those students. A new high school in a few years will have an infrastructure to accommodate the multiple devices. Dr. Hocker added the District is moving in that direction whether or not there is a new high school. There is a good, long-term plan.

Mrs. Meidinger inquired if a student would transfer from one elementary school to another elementary school, how would the device be replaced in the first elementary school. Superintendent Hocker responded the District grows by 4% or 5% every year. There are also students that move out of state. This could balance out. This would be a discussion with the building administrator. Mrs. Meidinger inquired if the technology would be cleared out when a student moves away. Dr. Hocker responded that the District may look at the building technologist assignments. Their time may need to be more focused on technology. Some of the current building technologists are assisting with recess and lunchroom duties.

Mr. Seaks inquired if the District has enough bandwidth to handle all the devices. Mr. Murphy responded he checked with Williston and Mandan and we have the same amount of bandwidth as those Districts. The District should have sufficient bandwidth as the number of devices increase.

Mrs. Goodall addressed the devices that will be in the classroom and not utilized. Some teachers do not know how to incorporate the devices effectively in the classroom. Superintendent Hocker responded, in the past, the thought was to prepare the teachers. His opinion is this was not working and added he was not putting blame on anyone. It is his hope that if the tools are available, most teachers will find ways to use them and grow with them.

Superintendent Hocker referenced the House bill that would move from required instructional days to required hours. This passed overwhelmingly in the House and has moved to the Senate. If this bill would go through, it would provide more time for professional development. He does not intend to shorten contract time for the teachers. There could be one teacher at a school sharing their knowledge of embedded technology with all the campuses. The District could provide better focus on how to address the embedded technology.

Mrs. Kensinger explained at the high school there are carts in some of the classrooms. There are many teachers and staff that want to have technology embedded. There are others that will not use the devices. It is hard for her to justify those devices in the classroom that are not being utilized. Dr. Hocker responded there will be some classrooms that may not use the devices and they will sit in the student's backpack. As an example, in the woodworking classroom, the device would be put away so that it is not ruined.

Superintendent Hocker expressed the technology will complement the High Reliability School (HRS) framework. It will also be a great start with the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

He thanked the committee members for their time. He had hoped to have the AdvancED engagement report sooner and would have scheduled this meeting sooner. He appreciated the patience of the committee members in scheduling the meeting.

Adjournment – At 5:02 p.m., the meeting adjourned.