
District-wide Technology Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 29, 2017; 4:00 p.m.
Central Administration Office Board room

Minutes

Members Present: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan (Administrator), Mrs. Kim Goodall (Hagen Junior High), Ms. Danielle Paiz (Hagen Junior High), Mrs. Kristi Meidinger (Heart River), Mrs. Andrea Dvorak (Heart River), Ms. Chantal Urlacher (Jefferson), Mrs. Jackie Glaser (Prairie Rose), Mrs. Rebecca Bautz (Prairie Rose), Ms. Jill Nelson-Wetzstein (Lincoln), Mrs. Ruth McCabe (Lincoln), Mrs. Lexi Steiner (Roosevelt), Miss Emily Bren (Roosevelt), Mrs. Tanya Rude (School Board), Mr. Brent Seaks (School Board), Mr. Mitchell Murphy (District Technology Coordinator), Mrs. Laura Hondl (District Technology Specialist), and Mr. Ryan Dukart (District Technology Specialist).

Members Absent: Mr. Brian Ham (DHS), Mr. Tracy Sipma (DHS), Mrs. Elisa Kensinger (DHS), Mr. Christopher Kovash (Berg), Mr. Damian Sobolik (Berg), Mrs. Laura Kelly (Jefferson), Mrs. Cill Skabo (Community Member), and Mrs. Stacy Northrop (District Technology Specialist).

Call to Order – Superintendent Douglas Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He introduced Ryan Dukart, new district-wide technology specialist.

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

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items –Mrs. Glaser asked a question regarding software for teachers for the standards-based grading. There is a rumor that a different one is being researched. Dr. Sullivan responded there have been conversations about a different approach but it would require additional software and additional steps. Those conversations are ongoing.

Approval of February 28, 2017, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Meidinger moved to approve the February 28 meeting minutes, as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

Kayako Report – Technology Coordinator Mitchell Murphy explained there is another update on North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) which is different from other years. This year for the testing, Berg Elementary is using 150 devices (laptop/surface carts, etc.) in comparison to 28 a few years ago. Hagen Junior High is using 260 multiple devices compared to 54 devices a few years ago. He noted the main reason for the multiple computers was the ability to do the testing all in one week. Berg has been testing and has had no issues or submitted any work orders. Heart River Elementary had a glitch but it was cleared up before the testing began. Hagen Junior High will begin testing on Monday, April 3.

Mortenson Construction has made available two secured rooms at Dickinson Middle School that will be utilized for storage of technology for the building.

Embedded Technology Initiative - Superintendent Sullivan referenced the Technology Strategic Plan and noted the committee has been reviewing the plan for several meetings. At the last meeting, the building representatives were asked to respond to two answers and forward their responses to the superintendent. Superintendent Sullivan has added the responses to the bottom of the Technology Strategic Plan. Dr. Sullivan noticed that there were numerous comments regarding the 1-to-1 initiative, which this committee has now changed to embedded technology. The change to embedded technology was due to the committee deciding it did not want 3,400 devices in the school district. At a previous meeting, there was a conversation what the embedded technology would look like and the committee decided it would start at the high school level and work its way down the grades. There will be reports this fall regarding the progress from the high school and the middle school regarding the technology at those buildings. He noted there is going to be a significant number of devices at Dickinson Middle School. Dr. Sullivan said the committee needs to focus on answering the question what the embedded technology looks like in grades K-5 and complete that conversation. There have been discussions on this topic with a variety of suggestions. He noted that Mrs. Meidinger has been very open with her desire to preserve student and teacher interaction at the lower grade levels. Dr. Sullivan explained a session at the National School Board Convention that stressed the importance of reinventing communication. There are schools now that will stop and ask the students to put the devices away and ask the students to communicate and talk with their neighbor. Dr. Sullivan asked the committee members to break up into groups and spend 15 minutes having a conversation about K-5 embedded technology and what it would look like. He asked them to think about what they would want their child to have in the classroom in the 21st century. He provided some statistics he asked the committee members to keep in mind. The children of today will change careers seven times and they are going to change jobs within those careers 37 times. The committee broke up into groups.

Following is the feedback from the group discussions.

Group 1 – Grades K-2, three students to one device in a small classroom set with a set equaling 10 students working in one section. Grades 3-5, two students to one device using a keyboard device, such as a laptop or Surface. This would help the students develop keyboarding skills in preparation for moving up to grades 6-8.

Group 2 – Grades K-2 and grades 3-5 having consistent time in the computer labs. Mrs. Meidinger explained that there are many teachers that do not have iPads. There are devices in the labs. Each grade level would determine how many minutes or how many days a week the students would spend on the devices. They would also determine the skills that would be taught during that consistent time. Mrs. Meidinger would like to have computers in the classroom (embedding technology in the classroom), ideally three students to one computer. She expressed concern regarding devices that do not work. Group 2 also would like to have financial equity in all grades.

Group 3 – Grades K-2, three students to one device (iPads); grades 3-5 two students to one device (keyboard device). Ideally, they suggested one laptop cart per grade level. A laptop cart holds 30 devices. They recommend enough devices for the students so that the

technology can be integrated into the classroom more often than now. It is difficult to get into the computer lab since it is also used for testing or library skills.

Group 4 – Grades K-2, three students to one device (depending on the class sizes). There was discussion regarding apps for the devices. Grades 3-5, two students to one device (Surfaces). The group suggested sharing of information amongst the teachers regarding the technology.

Mrs. Goodall shared that it has made a big difference this year having the devices in her classroom. She does not have to worry about time constraints with sharing the cart. She gave examples how the devices in the classroom are beneficial and would recommend having them in the classroom as the District goes through the planning stages.

Group 5 – Providing more training to the students on using the actual computer, more than just the basics and making sure the students are proficient on the computers. The group recommended Surfaces in grades 3-7. They felt it was important to have the skills when they graduate and work backwards in making sure those skills are taught at the appropriate grade levels to achieve the goal when the student graduates. Mr. Seaks explained Super Awesome Sylvia and some of the achievements by using old keyboards and computers and recycling them and rewiring them and reusing them.

Dr. Sullivan recapped the discussion; he did not feel any of the groups were objecting to a differentiation between grades K-2 and grades 3-5. He asked if any of the group members would object to trying to achieve a 3-1 ratio (three students to one computer) in grades K-2. There were no objections noted. The preference of the groups was an iPad for grades K-2, unless a new device becomes available that is better than the iPad. There was a notation that the devices would be in the five-year replacement rotation. Mr. Dukart explained the typing skills used in the real world, and if they are only using an iPad up until the middle school, when the student gets to the middle school they won't know how to use Microsoft Word. There was a discussion regarding the fine motor skills and using the iPad at lower grade levels and then switching to a keyboard device. Dr. Sullivan explained the sentiment of the group appeared to be 2-1 ratio (two students to one device) in grades 3-5. He added that the preference for devices in grades 3-8 were Surfaces or a device with a keyboard. There was discussion about having enough carts for the extra grade sections at some of the schools in grades 3-5. Mrs. Hondl explained what a classroom set would look like in the classroom versus using the laptop carts. This scenario was appealing to the committee members. Dr. Sullivan asked the group if they would prefer a classroom set or the laptop carts. The group preferred to have the classroom sets.

Dr. Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the group to meet the goal of defining what the embedded technology would be in grades K-5. He will be conveying this information back to the school board at the April 10 meeting. There will be notes typed up and shared with the committee in the near future. He asked each committee member to share the information with the faculty in their building. A timeframe for implementation will be decided at a later date as resources and cost are researched.

Future Meeting Date – The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
Minutes provided by Twila Petersen.