



District-wide Technology Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021; 4:00 p.m.
Professional Learning Lab

MINUTES

Members Present: Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, Mr. Jason Rodakowski (School Board), Mrs. Elisa Kensinger (DHS), Mrs. Kristi Meidinger (Berg), Mrs. Dessa Russell (Heart River), Mrs. Kelly Smith (Lincoln), Ms. Emily Bren (Roosevelt), Mrs. Lexi Steiner (Elementary Technology Integration Specialist), Mr. Troy Kuntz (Library Media Specialist), , Mr. Mitchell Murphy (Technology Coordinator), Mrs. Laura Hondl (Technology Specialist), Mr. Ryan Dukart (Technology Specialist), Mrs. Amy Wyant (Prairie Rose), Mrs. Chantel Heth (Jefferson), Mrs. Jacqueline Glaser (Prairie Rose), Mr. Brent Seaks (School Board), Mr. Brian Ham (DHS), Mr. Bryan Herrin (Berg), Mrs. Magdalyn Czech (Heart River), Mrs. Alicia Hutzenbiler (Jefferson), Mrs. Greta Schweitzer (Lincoln), Mrs. Melanie Kathrein (Director of Instruction), and Ms. Marisa Riesinger (Library Media Specialist).

Members Absent: Mrs. Amy Wyant (Prairie Rose), Mrs. Carissa Decker (DMS), Mrs. Meagan Schlecht (DMS Technology Integration Specialist), Ms. Stacy Northrop (Technology Specialist), and Mr. Greg Jung (DHS Technology Integration Specialist).

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

Approval of Minutes from the October 14, 2021, Meeting – Mrs. Glaser moved to approve the October 14, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Meidinger seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Purpose of Committee – To provide executive-level oversight for the implementation and use of technology in the District.

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

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – No additions or deletions to the agenda were noted.

Business Topics

Follow up from October 14, 2021, Meeting – Mr. Murphy reported Connecting Point will be at Dickinson Middle School December 28-30 installing ActivPanels. All four technologists will be moving the Promethean boards into the classrooms on December 22. Some of the Promethean boards will not be fully operational when school resumes in January as there will be more configuration done the first week of January. Nine of the boards will be operational over the existing projector space. These nine classrooms will transition directly from the old Promethean boards to the new boards.

The week of December 13-17, 2021, 40 laptops at Prairie Rose Elementary will be installed as part of the rotation process. Mrs. Glaser inquired if she could continue to utilize her desktop computer since she has a sit/stand desk platform. Mr. Murphy responded there would be a new monitor hooked up to her desktop computer.

Responsibility Tree – Mr. Harris reported there will be a meeting on Thursday with the District technology staff to create a checklist of who was responsible for maintaining devices. This meeting will include technology paraprofessionals. The checklist will be for device setups as well as cheat sheets for staff and administrators noting what individuals should be contacted regarding different types of problems.

Software Adoption/Purchase – Mr. Harris explained once a month the technology integrationists meet with the technology department. During those meetings, they have started the process of software review. This process includes discussions of how the software was purchased and the processes in place to adopt the software.

Mrs. Kensinger asked regarding the future for Exact Path, an online program that is currently free from the state. She noted the language arts department at the high school was using it extensively. Mrs. Kathrein responded the state was looking at renewing it through 2023.

Discussion Items

What role does technology play in achieving the District's Vision/Mission?

DPS Vision: *Success for all!!*

DPS Mission: *Prepare all learners for life-long success through a safe, collaborative, and innovative learning community.*

Committee members met in small groups to discuss the question; What role does technology play in achieving the District's Vision/Mission? Information from the mini-group was that technology is a tool, it is a resource. Mrs. Czech gave an example at Heart River Elementary where a speech language pathologist was able to utilize technology as a tool to Zoom with learners. Ms. Riesinger thought the computers/technology needed to be addressed in the curriculum. Even if the student has the tool as a resource, if they do not have the ability to use the tool and know how to collaborate and share with it, it isn't very useful. The students are not taught the skills until the third grade.

It was Mrs. Meidinger's opinion before COVID-19, technology was on a path to provide enhancement to learning. With COVID, every student was given a device and some students think of it as a toy and not a learning tool. She feels some students are addicted to technology. They need to learn also with pen and pencil. Mrs. Glaser added that instruction cannot be done only through technology. There also needs to be hands-on learning to supplement the technology.

Mr. Kuntz referenced the technology standards. Ms. Riesinger thought they were grade-level specific standards that could be built on for the students; maybe highlighting what skills are needed as a responsible citizen. Mrs. Kensinger suggested an assessment scale be attached to the standards. Ms. Riesinger noted there are life skills that are basic and not assessed.

Mr. Harris asked if the District were using an authentic Professional Learning Community (PLC) to answer the questions regarding the state's computer science and cybersecurity, how would it be answered. Mr. Herrin responded the question would be to determine if it was essential or not. Mr. Harris went through each PLC question with the committee members responding: What is it we want our students to learn? How will we know if each student has learned it? How will we respond when

some students do not learn it? How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

Mr. Harris asked in an authentic Response to Intervention (RTI) framework when referencing technology behaviors, where does the appropriate technology behaviors fall? It was established the behaviors are on the left side, therefore these would be handled through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS).

Mr. Harris summarized the responses to the question; What role does technology play? The responses were that technology was a resource tool that helps us to facilitate the achievement of those goals. There was discussion whether technology was a critical resource to facilitate the District's vision and mission statements.

Mr. Harris asked the committee if there needs to be anything done at the executive level oversight to enhance or improve technology to accomplish our mission. The committee broke up into small groups to discuss. Mr. Ham thought it would be helpful for the teachers to know what curriculum was taught and when it was taught. He added that the social studies and sciences departments complement each other.

Committee members shared at what grade level digital citizenship was taught. It was established one area of improvement could be essential computer science standards. Mr. Harris inquired if this would fall under the building leadership team or at the District level to share with the buildings. Mrs. Steiner responded it would not be effective if everyone would do their own. Each building would do something different. It would not be uniform.

Mr. Kuntz said the library media specialists were traveling between buildings. They would be in the best position to identify behaviors and also standards set out by the state. A question was asked how the District was implementing a curriculum regarding digital citizenship. Mr. Harris inquired who should be taking the lead on the standards or was this something that would require a subcommittee. Mr. Herrin suggested a subcommittee as it would be more efficient. Mr. Harris will review this topic again at the next meeting and potential subcommittee members could be identified.

Additional topics at the next meeting will be the District's belief statements, communication, and what role does technology play in achieving the District's goal of establishing authentic communication and engagement.

Adjournment – Mr. Harris thanked all those for attending. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.