



## EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2018

8:30 a.m.

---

Committee Members: Anna Shinn, Chair

Carol Hample, Thomas Wallace, Wayne Doran

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Coordinator

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

### Minutes

#### 1. Technology Updates

- a. Chromebook refresh grade 6 and grades 2-3: 6th grade is due for a refresh of their chromebooks this summer. The recommendation is for the current chromebooks from 8th grade be repurposed as spares throughout the district. Newer devices from Three Bridges School and Whitehouse School will be moved to next year's 6th graders since they are on the same refresh cycle as the current 6th and 7th grade chromebooks. New Chromebooks will be purchased for the second and third graders at both schools. The request is to purchase 327 for second and third grade and start the 1 to 1 initiative at both schools. The chromebooks at the elementary level will stay in classroom and kept on racks. No take home.
- b. SmartBoards nearing end of life at RMS: The current SmartBoards are 8-10 years old and currently require Windows 7 to run. As of January 2020 Microsoft will reach end of life with windows 7, which means Microsoft will no longer update or support Windows 7. The district must change either to new SmartBoards, which cost \$4500 each or adopt a new way of using the equipment in a similar manner by then. TECHSPO is coming up and our representatives will be looking at new technology to replace the smart board. Some needs assessments are being completed in order to make the most practical decision for our district. One of the biggest questions being asked is: What technology would be the most utilized and productive for the district to educate our kids?
- c. Internet filtering: Is currently cloud based. This is not going as well as expected because we are beyond the capabilities of this particular cloud based program. In simple terms they are just not ready for us. The software downloads to the computers and computers talking to the cloud is just not going as well as anticipated. While the cloud based is working, it is recommended to pull out of the cloud based filtering, remove the software and have full filtering through our current network and moving to an on premise, subscription based program to filter with an add on firewall for content filtering and content management. Securely is a free filtering program that

will be used for take home devices. The feeling is this would be better for our district at this time.

## 2. Aerospace

- a. Meeting with Solberg scheduled for Dec 11: There are a few goals with this venture. One goal is to create a connection between the airport and the school district. There used to be assemblies given by the Solberg Airport and field trips to the airport and the hope is to see if this is a viable option for the future. Another goal will also be to work with the Solberg and to grow a program that would fit into our curriculum.
- b. Alexandria's November Meeting was cancelled due to snow, Dec. meeting is next week: The owner of Alexandria Airport will follow up with the district to to inform us of how many, if any, Readington students attend. The Math and Science Department is working to include in their budget for next year the purchase of a Living Lab kit to be utilized in district as we would like.

## 3. GingerBuilding tentatively scheduled: February 1 is the current scheduled date for the judging of the Gingerbread Houses, from 11am-1pm. There are currently 10 teams with about 3-4 students per building. The basic premise of this challenge is that the groups have to plan, budget, and build their houses and points are gained and deducted based on if they stay in budget, stay within the materials they "purchased", if their plans had to be modified, etc. It will mimic what would happen on a real life construction site or building project. Judges are needed.

## 4. SEL Program Update

- a. Assessment of our program: The committee reviewed the findings of a needs assessment that was conducted. The district staff was Surveyed to see where we are in their opinion and knowledge and where the district needs to go and would like to go with the SEL program. The District Survey had about 4 questions and about 100 staff members participated. There are still areas of needs and comfort that need to be addressed and nurtured. There will be a future presentation to the board with the full findings.
- b. Inventory SEL building The building SEL committees met with the director of SEL and discussed building needs, understanding and projections on how to meet the goals of the SEL program and District Strategic Plan.
- c. Goals moving forward: Some ways to achieve the goals will be: District wide inservice on the 5 competencies, parent in-service offerings, coordinate SEL in a cross content and curricular manner and to integrate Conscience Discipline and Restorative Practices for students requiring more SEL intervention just to name a few.

## 5. Follow up discussion about LGBTQ and other diverse texts and creating tolerance (**attachment** with research to consider)

- a. Follow-up from last meeting discussing *Totally Joe*: Research shows that when students read about characters that may relate to them, it helps them to grow and do self reflection. This would also be able to help students who may need a better understanding of the current issues. An examples of this is the Mirror and Window theory. In mirrors you will see yourself and reflect on what you are seeing in yourself with what you are reading in the literature. In windows you are able to see inside of the minds of others. This may helps students better understand each other, family, friends and what they maybe feeling and thinking. It is very beneficial to students to have diverse literature. Social Acceptance/Awareness is a competency and this would help with

our SEL program and our tolerance and understanding with others. The next meeting will be to discuss : How do we, as a district, help support parents with difficult to discuss issues that do come up in our literature. This could be centered around offering and educating parents on strategies in order to deal with sensitive and difficult issues where discussion may come up with their children. More updates to follow.

6. Next meeting: January 11, 2019 8:30