

Horry County Board of Education Technology Committee
Minutes
Monday, March 7, 2016

4:00 PM at District Office, Four Mile Road, Conway, SC

Board Members Present: Janice Morreale, Committee Chair; Ray Winters, Committee Member; Sherrie Todd, Committee Member; Joe DeFeo, Board Chair; and Janet Graham, Board Member

Staff Members Present: Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent; Edward Boyd, Charles Hucks, Mary Anderson, Kenny Generette, John Gardner, Daryl Brown, Carolyn Chestnut, Boone Myrick, Dottie Brown, and Teal Harding.

Twelve elementary school principals and members of the news media were also present.

Welcome

Ms. Morreale called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting notice complied with FOIA (S.C. Law 30-4-80).

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Winters moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Todd seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Expansion of Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) in elementary grades

Mr. Boyd started the discussion by referring back to the Board of Education's minutes of action taken on February 23, 2015, to only approve 1:1 iPads for grade 5 at the elementary level for the 2015-16 school year, and to delay the decision about expanding to grades 3 and 4. A copy of the proposal to expand PDL to grades 3 and 4 was distributed with the recommendation from District staff to purchase devices for use in the 2016-17 school year. Funding is already approved in the Board's Long-Range Capital Funding Plan with \$9 million a year allocated for technology.

Ms. Morreale asked about moving middle school iPads to grades 3 and 4 and purchasing new 1:1 devices for middle school grades 6-8. Mr. Hucks stated that he was worried about functionality of the iPads for the next four years in light of the fact that they were already three years old. He mentioned the plan to sell the old iPads for the market value at the scheduled middle school refresh cycle in Summer 2017.

Mr. DeFeo asked about buying classroom sets for elementary grades rather than providing each student a personalized device. He asked for a report on how many iPads the district would have to buy both ways: one iPad for each student or one set of iPads for each classroom. Mr. Hucks said he would bring an estimate to the next Committee meeting. There was also a discussion about the differences offered by single sign-on for students versus whole class logins.

Mr. DeFeo asked if we would need more staff for elementary grades if iPads were provided to grades 3 and 4. Mr. Boyd stated that the proposed budget did not include a request for additional staff.

Mr. DeFeo also asked if the Board would ever get data for how the devices were impacting student achievement. He acknowledged the change in state testing in each of the last three years was problematic in getting data.

Mr. DeFeo asked what third graders would do with iPads. Several principals responded with examples like digital math and ELA programs, Google classroom, research, and small group differentiation. Ms. Morreale referred the Committee to a list of benefits developed by elementary principals earlier this year. Principals will work to update that list for the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Morreale also asked Mr. Gardner to look at the available funding for the elementary grades expansion for the next meeting.

Device breakage report

Mr. Hucks presented information on device glass breakage through the end of February 2016. The breakage for high school students is 797, or 6%; middle school has 1,530 breaks, or 17%, and fifth grade has only had seven breaks, less than 1%. Middle and high school breakage rate is down from last year.

Ms. Morreale asked to get a copy of the breakage report by school. Mr. Winters asked to see comparisons to last year.

Committee members also discussed the unpaid repair charges and how long they stay on a student's record if they are unpaid. Committee members agreed to discuss charges and students without devices due to unpaid bills at the next meeting.

Update on crypto-locker computer virus

Mr. Hucks gave an update on the district's actions related to the February 8 encryption of district servers by a crypto-locker virus. The district is back to normal, and procedures have been taken to make the system less vulnerable in the future. The technology staff is also working with technology security firms on additional steps that could be taken. The staff has reported all activities related to the virus to the FBI and local law enforcement.

Adjournment

Ms. Morreale adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.