

Horry County Board of Education Technology Committee Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

4:00 PM at Myrtle Beach High School Media Center

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

Staff Members Present: Dr. Rick Maxey, Edward Boyd, Charles Hucks, Edi Cox, Kenny Generette, John Gardner, Carolyn Chestnut, Boone Myrick, Mary Anderson, Dottie Brown, and Sie Gilbert.

Principals: Reggie Gasque, Dawn Brooks, Robert Homer, Candace Lane, and Ann Hall. Three members of the news media (Sun News, My Horry News, and WBTW) were also present.

Welcome

Ms. Morreale called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Winters made a motion to approve the April 18, 2016 minutes. Mrs. Todd seconded. Motion carried.

Year-end report on devices (grades 5-12)

Edward Boyd and Charles Hucks shared the device repair work to be done over the summer. Fifth-graders only damaged 24 iPads during the 2015-16 school year. Approximately 6,200 of the middle school iPads were either repaired for glass breakage during the school year or are scheduled for repair during the summer. There are between 2,500-3,000 iPads scheduled for summer repairs. Middle school iPads are entering their final year of use in Fall 2016. Approximately 2,900 high school Dell Venues were repaired for glass breaks. Elementary and high school devices were repaired under manufacturers' "care" plans. Middle school repairs are done by outside vendors arranged by the school district.

Ms. Morreale asked for an agenda item at an upcoming Committee meeting in August to discuss plans for the upcoming school year related to middle school devices in light of the high breakage rate. She also wanted to discuss the district's plan to provide some type of computer to students to eliminate the down-time while repairs were being done or for students who do not pay for repairs.

There was a discussion about the Technology Fee (currently \$25). More than 60% of students in grades 5-12 paid the fee. There was also discussion with principals in the room about efforts to collect fees and breakage repair costs from parents.

Middle school PDL focus group and teacher/student survey results

Edward Boyd updated the Committee on work since the last meeting to get feedback regarding the effectiveness of PDL and the iPad as the middle school device at the end of the third year. A 46-member focus group met May 23 with middle school representatives from Teacher Cabinet, Student Cabinet, and Parent Cabinet, as well as all middle school principals. That group developed the benefits of PDL and areas of

emphasis as we move forward with the next round of refresh devices. They also were asked if they preferred a new iPad, a replacement device, or had no opinion about the next refresh scheduled for Fall 2017.

The responses from the focus group were included in an online survey sent to middle school teachers and students in late May. There were more than 3,700 student responses and 364 teacher responses. The results from the focus group and survey will be used to begin discussions beginning next Fall about middle school PDL and refresh device.

Ms. Morreale asked if the opportunity for the selection group to look at a variety of devices would take place, and the answer was "yes." There was also a discussion about the need for a keyboard for either iPads or a replacement device. Ms. Todd asked the cost of an iPad keyboard, and Mr. Hucks responded around \$120. Black Water Middle Principal Candace Lane shared that her school had purchased iPad keyboards for shared use in English language arts classes, and that around 50% of students used them. Ms. Morreale said that middle school students need to improve their keyboard skills prior to moving to ninth grade.

A timeline and description of the process to further evaluate middle school PDL and the refresh device will be shared at the next Technology Committee meeting in August.

Plans for grades 3-4 PDL

Ms. Morreale opened the floor for discussion about providing devices for elementary grades 3 and 4. Mr. Winters stated his opinion that elementary students are rarely using iPads as a whole class, and that two students per iPad in grades 3-4 would be his preference. He also stated purchasing Apple Care for the devices was a waste of money due to the low breakage rate this year in fifth grade. Ms. Morreale asked for an opinion from the staff, and Mr. Boyd and Mr. Hucks agreed that the low breakage rate was a reason to not purchase the \$99 per unit Apple Care. Dr. Maxey asked principals in the audience to address the use of iPads in fifth grade this year. Dawn Brooks and Reggie Gasque shared the opinion that students used iPads often as a whole class and gave examples. Ms. Morreale asked about the new iPad (64g) allowing multiple users on the same device, and Mr. Hucks said that was a feature but it was about \$100 per unit more expensive than the iPad model currently used in fifth grade. The same iPad case used in fifth grade would be the preferred case for the grades added, according to Mr. Hucks.

Ms. Todd asked Mr. Hucks and Mr. Boyd for their opinion as to what they would recommend as the grades 3-4 distribution model. Both Mr. Hucks and Mr. Boyd expressed support for providing iPads to all third and fourth grade students under the same 1:1 distribution model used in fifth grade.

Mr. Winters asked where the PDL funds came from. Mr. Boyd answered all technology was purchased from capital funds revenue generated by the penny sales tax (\$9.1 million per year). Mr. DeFeo said that the Board had other funding needs for capital projects and would need capital funds to pay for extra expenses like the \$3-5 million in shortfalls for renovation and addition projects at schools. Ms. Todd said she was trying to find money for schools in Conway with facility needs.

Mr. Winters made a motion to purchase iPads for grades 3 and 4 where two students would share one 64g iPad, with each school getting an additional 15 iPads per school on top of the formula for use in resource classes. Apple Care would not be purchased for the new iPads. Ms. Todd seconded. The motion passed with Winters, Todd and Morreale voting in favor.

Ms. Todd made a motion to provide any money saved from purchasing iPads under the one-computer-for-every-two-students model be diverted to Conway schools for facility repairs. Mr. Winters seconded. The motion passed with Todd, Winters and Morreale voting in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Winters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Todd. Mrs. Morreale adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.