

Horry County Board of Education Technology Committee Minutes

Monday, December 11, 2017

3:00 PM at District Office C-300

Board Members Present: Janice Morreale, Committee Chair; Ray Winters, Committee Member; Sherrie Todd, Committee Member, and Chris Hardwick, Committee Member; and David Cox, Board Member

Staff Members Present: Dr. Rick Maxey, Edward Boyd, Charles Hucks, Edi Cox, April Scott, Kenny Generette, John Gardner, Boone Myrick, Mary Anderson, Velna Allen, Stephen Driscoll, Lisa Bourcier, Ashley Gasperson, and Sie Gilbert.

Four members of the news media (Sun News, My Horry News, WPDE, WBTW) were also present.

Welcome

Ms. Morreale called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Update on middle school transition to Chromebooks

Edward Boyd gave an overview of the middle school device transition earlier this semester from iPads to Chromebook laptops. The four-year refresh resulted in approximately 11,000 Chromebooks being distributed to students in grades 6-8 in all middle schools, plus grade 5 at St. James Intermediate and the Horry County Education Center students.

April Scott, Middle School Executive Director, shared that feedback from middle school principals, teachers, students and staff had been overwhelmingly positive about the transition to Chromebooks.

Edi Cox, Instructional Technology Executive Director, provided instructional updates on the transition to Chromebooks that was made easier because of the extensive training and work done with teachers with Google Classroom.

Charles Hucks, Information Technology Executive Director, shared that the breakage rate for Chromebooks was significantly lower during first semester than the previous experience with iPads. The cost-savings from the Chromebook purchase enabled the district to purchase permanent charging stations for all middle school classrooms. He also reported that the new middle schools would be getting new tables as part of the charging station setup.

Boyd responded to Board members' questions about the middle school iPads and their use after the distribution of the new Chromebooks. All middle schools were allowed to keep the student iPads first semester to allow for a smooth transition of classroom instruction, in addition to the Chromebooks. The plan was to collect all iPads at the end of first semester and then determine their future best use. In the meantime, many middle schools collected the old iPads and put them in storage. In response to elementary schools' requests for additional iPads, an estimated 2,500 iPads were moved from storage to elementary classrooms. Ms. Morreale asked for a count of how many middle school iPads were still usable and asked for a count by-school for those that had been redistributed. The district staff agreed to bring that information to the next Technology Committee meeting in February.

Plans for high school grades (9-12) PDL refresh

Edward Boyd and Edi Cox discussed and provided a handout of the process that will be used to determine the high school PDL device that will be effective at the start of the 2018-19 school year. A process will be used similar to that used in middle schools last school year. A review team comprised of each high school's principal, instructional coach, two teachers, and two Student Cabinet representatives will review the devices on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office C-300. A device recommendation will follow and be shared at the Feb. 5, 2018 Technology Committee meeting. Board members were invited to attend the review process on Jan. 23.

Adjournment

Mr. Winters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Todd. Mrs. Morreale adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.