Horry County Board of Education

Technology Committee

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2019
Minutes

Board Members Present:

Janice Morreale, Technology Committee Chairwomen   Ken Richardson, Board Chairman

David Cox, Technology Committee Member   Shanda Allen

Ray Winters, Technology Committee Member

Sherri Todd, Technology Committee Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent

Velna Allen

Mary Anderson

Lisa Bourcier

Daryl Brown

Margo Cox

John Gardner

Missy Johnson

Boone Myrick

Media Present:

WBTW

As required by SC Law 30-4-80, local news media were informed of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting. Copies of the agenda were posted at the District Office and distributed to schools for posting.

Opening and Introductions

The meeting opened by Committee Chairwoman, Janice Morreale with introductions of those in attendance.

Capital Technology Updates

After reviewing the agenda items, Ms. Morreale shared the proposed capital technology plan, with an annual $9.1 million dollar budget. Ms. Morreale stated that capital funds were designated to support the Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) Initiative, the employee laptop initiative, and other technology needs. Ms. Morreale referenced the handouts, which included the past and future PDL device selection process and refresh cycle. Ms. Morreale asked Ms. Velna Allen to provide further updates from the technology department.

Ms. Allen provided information on the technology department staff membership and their current responsibilities, which included the following: providing transcript and other documents to former students, repairing devices, trouble-shooting technology issues, monitoring spam and phishing

attempts, monitoring servers, providing technical assistance to all schools, monitoring the phone and security camera systems, repairing and replacing classroom projectors, maintaining an inventory of all devices, and providing professional development. In addition to these responsibilities, the technology department works collaboratively with Learning Services to ensure our teachers have the technology resources necessary to provide the best learning environment for our students.

Additional Technology Department Information
- Refreshed over 800 teacher laptops this school year (provided pickup sites throughout the District)
- Installed over 6,000 phones
- Installed approximately 3,200 security cameras
- Installed additional access points

2019 Summer Plans
- Refresh over 700 teacher laptops
- Refresh 11 servers
- Replace all desk-top projectors
- Provide technical assistance at New Teacher Academy, Extreme iCamp, summer schools, and Summer Scholars
- Wipe all 8th and 12th grade devices

Discussion
Ms. Morreale expressed her appreciation that sites were provided for teachers to pickup their laptops because of the difficulty for them to drive to the District Office, especially now that one road is closed. Ms. Morreale hopes we will continue utilizing other sites because she was sure it was successful and appreciated by teachers who participated. Ms. Morreale opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Ray Winters asked about the current iPad breakage rate at the elementary level. Ms. Missy Johnson did not have the exact number, but was certain it was lower than previous years.

Mr. Winters stated that he thought it would be good to have the elementary schools all on the same refresh schedule and proposed the possibility of deferring 5th grade refresh for one year. This would allow grades 3-5 to be refreshed for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Winters' rationale was that the next iPad to be released would have a quad-core processor, which would provide a better and more robust device. Mr. Winters re-emphasized that we could offer the 5th grade a much better device by waiting an additional year. Ms. Johnson indicated that she would verify the current iPad operating system could be updated to handle new testing requirements.   Ms. Johnson also shared that it is difficult to determine the number of cracked screens at this time because many schools wait until the end of the year to submit work orders.

Mrs. Allen reminded the committee that our current Applecare plan was only good for four years and would end on June 30, 2019. We do not currently purchase an Applecare plan for grades 3 – 4.

Dr. Maxey stated that, although he understood the logic of waiting, we have published the refresh cycle. He mentioned that a change in midstream may disrupt the morale of our people who have taken good care of these devices.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 29th at 3:30.

Adjourn

Ms. Morreale moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Winters. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Cox
Administrative Asst. – Student Services

Approved: _____