

Horry County Board of Education

Technology Committee

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, November 1, 2021

Board Members Present:

Shanda Allen, Technology Committee Chairwoman
David Cox
James Edwards
Russell Freeman
Ken Richardson, Board Chairman

Helen Smith
Sherri Todd
Melanie Wellons, Technology Committee Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent
Velna Allen
Mary Anderson
Mike Cherry
Margo Cox
John Gardner
Kandi Fleming

Kenneth Generette
Fred Hutchinson
Missy Johnson
Boone Myrick

Media Present:

Mary Norkel, The Sun News

Others Present:

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.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Ms. Shanda Allen moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded; all voted in favor of approving the agenda. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Shanda Allen moved to accept the minutes of February 8, 2021 meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Technology Devices Update

Based on information previously requested by the Technology Committee members, Ms. Velna Allen provided the following:

- HCS sold the majority of the old Chromebooks which were previously used by middle school students. The total amount received for the Chromebooks was \$265,000. Chromebooks will continue to be collected from students.
- There were 803 devices used in K-12 that were reported lost or stolen during the 2019-20 school year.
- During the time period of August 17, 2021 – September 30, 2021, there were 50 devices reported lost or stolen, 278 devices reported as damaged, and 983 work orders entered.
- Hot Spots are no longer provided by the SCDE. Hot Spots were issued to 14 students at the beginning of the 2021 school year.

Ms. Velna Allen provided the following update on the HCS PDL initiative:

- Teachers are on a 4-year laptop refresh cycle. They are also issued a student device.
- This school year, 572 laptops were issued to our veteran teachers.
- Outdated laptops that are returned from the teachers are used as loaners and spares.
- Laptops were issued to new teachers during the New Teacher Academy. As of November 1st, over 500 devices were issued to new teachers/employees.
- For the current school year, there are 36,514 students who have paid the \$25 technology fee. This is 77% of our students.
- The technology department will begin the elementary project refresh process this school year. Classrooms that have VGA connections will be converted to HDMI connections. This could become a summer project due to the fact the projectors are backordered and there is no available information on the delivery date.
- Discussions need to be held on whether HCS wants to put all elementary grade levels on the same device refresh cycle or continue with a 3-year period of time.
- This year 93.6% of our parents successfully registered their students electronically.

The main topic of the committee meeting was the high school device refresh. The process should be completed by the middle of January to prevent a delay in receiving the devices.

- Ms. Velna Allen presented the committee with a draft handout for high school device selection.
- A meeting was held on October 6th with high school principals, Ms. April Scott, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, and Ms. Michelle Ammann, Executive Director of Online Learning, to determine what devices should be considered as options for the high school refresh.
- It was decided that an iPad would not be an appropriate device for a high school student.
- The three devices that were considered were the newer version Dell Latitude 3120 laptop, the Chromebook 11 3100, and the 13" MacBook Air.
- Ms. Velna Allen recommended that we take the MacBook Air off the table due to the cost.
- Students, teachers, parents, principals, and community members will have the opportunity to review the devices prior to attending meetings with the DELL representatives, which will occur the second week of December.
- Members of the selection committee will include the principal, student cabinet members, each school's teacher of the year, and instructional coaches. The selection committee will meet with the Dell representative to review the devices, the specs, and the devices' capabilities.
- The selection committee will make a recommendation to the Technology Committee on January 10th, 2022.

Discussion

Ms. Shanda Allen asked about the battery life of the Chromebook. Ms. Missy Johnson shared that she had discussed this issue with the vendors and the quotes on each device come with a 3-year warranty on the battery.

Competitive pricing for the two devices was discussed. Ms. Johnson added that the price included on-site repair services from Dell.

Ms. Melanie Wellons asked if the Chromebook was considered during the last middle school refresh process and Ms. Velna Allen confirmed that it was.

Ms. Helen Smith questioned the difference of the 4-cell battery on the Latitude in comparison to the 3-cell battery on the Chromebook. Ms. Johnson explained that the 4-cell on the Latitude would have a longer charge but the 3-cell battery was the only option for the Chromebook.

Mr. Cherry confirmed that both devices would run Microsoft Office Suite.

Ms. Wellons questions if it would be an additional cost to have those applications on the MacBook Air if the device was chosen. Mr. Cherry confirmed the application could be used with the MacBook and would be preloaded on the device chosen. Ms. Wellons questioned if there would be an additional cost. Ms. Johnson confirmed that our license would allow us to load it on the device of our choice without an additional cost.

Mr. Cherry confirmed that both devices would run Microsoft office without internet connections and would synchronize together once you were back online.

Ms. Velna Allen asked for the approval of the high school refresh timeline before going forward. It was recommended that the Chromebook and the Dell laptop would be considered as the high school device and that the MacBook be eliminated from the choices. The motion was made and met with a second. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

Ms. Shanda Allen asked for a motion to move forward with the Refresh Timeline. The motion was made and was met with a second. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Adjourn

Moved to adjourn and met with a second; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Cox
Administrative Asst. – Student Services

Approved: _____