

Horry County Board of Education

Technology Committee

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, January 10, 2022

Board Members Present:

Howard Barnard, Technology Committee Member
David Cox
James Edwards
Janet Graham

Melanie Wellons, Technology Committee Member
Tracy Winters

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent
Velna Allen
Michelle Ammann
Lisa Boucier
Daryl Brown

Mike Cherry
Margo Cox
John Gardner
Ebony Livingston
Boone Myrick

Media Present:

My Horry County 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. Melanie Wellons 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. Melanie Wellons moved to accept the minutes of November 1, 2021, meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Technology Devices Presentation for High School Refresh

Ms. Michelle Ammann provided the following:

- The 2022-23 School year will be the year to refresh high school devices.
- The technology department reviewed different devices to be considered. Devices were also considered by an Instructional Technology Committee at each high school. Each high school committee consisted of two students, two teachers, the technology support assistant, the instructional coach, and the principal.
- On December 9, 2021, Dell representatives presented the committees with devices for review. Afterwards a virtual meeting was scheduled to demonstrate each devices' features, and a survey was sent to each committee member.
- The two devices that were considered were the Dell Chromebook and the Dell Latitude. There was a concern that the Chromebook does not allow you to save documents. Because we are currently using the Dell Latitude in our high schools, we would be able to use the same chargers, which could be a significant savings. The Dell Latitude was the device preferred by 90% of the committee members.

Discussion

Mr. Howard Barnard questioned the short battery life of the Dell Latitudes that the high school students are currently using. Mr. Mike Cherry explained the battery life was contingent upon the age of the device. The new Latitudes would come with a 3 yr. warranty on the battery and would be replaced by Dell if the life of the battery expired within that timeframe.

Velna Allen: Recommendation for the Dell Latitude

- Ms. Allen thanked Ms. Ammann, her team, and Learning Services for organizing the committees and for all the information that was received from the committees.
- Based on all the information received from the committees, Ms. Allen made the recommendation, that we purchase the Dell Latitudes as the device for the next 4 year for high school students.
- Ms. Allen also added that due to the increase in cost for the device and student enrollment, we would need to discuss funding.

Mr. John Gardner: Funding

- Mr. Gardner informed the committee when we first began the PDL Initiative, we allocated six million dollars for device purchases.
After several years of refreshments and the increase in pricing as well as student enrollment, we would need an additional 3.5 million to complete the refresh. Mr. Gardner recommended that we use ESSER funds to complete the refresh.

Discussion

- Mr. Barnard ask if the Technology Committee could approve the use of ESSER Funds or would we need to bring it before the Board of Education?
- Mr. Gardner suggested that we get the board's approval.
- Mr. Barnard suggested that Ms. Allen present recommendations for the device and for ESSER Funds to the board members at tonight's school board meeting.
- Ms. Allen agreed.

Adjourn

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

Margo Cox

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Cox
Administrative Asst. – Student Services