

MINUTES OF THE DIVISION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Division Technology Advisory Committee was held on Monday, October 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room and the School Board Office.

Mr. Rickey Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology, welcomed members and called the meeting to order. He explained the committee's purpose was to discuss various issues related to technology. All members were present with the exception of Dr. Brad Bryant and Cathy Scolpini.

Committee questions / topics followed:

- Problems with Welligent for nurses. Information is being entered but then is not there when they go back to retrieve it.
 - Parker – Interfacing for PowerSchool does not work for Welligent. A central, state-wide information system was needed, and SASI was not up to par. SASI offered a free upgrade to Power School. Approximately 88-90 school divisions are Power School. The upgrade was necessary to meet certain standards. It will probably be another year before Power School is up to standards.
- Question relative to the procedure for switching over from Blackboard to Moodle.
 - Parker – Blackboard was discontinued because of the cost. Information sessions have been conducted for Moodle, however, additional training will be provided if necessary. Blackboard and Moodle are not compatible. Therefore, data cannot be transferred from one to another.
- Problem with Novanet. Media errors are being received and students are unable to get into their lessons.
 - Wilkerson – The problem may be that the computer is missing something on multi-media. However, Novanet wants to convert to another program. This will be free and completely web-based. At this time the date has not been set for the start-up of another program.
- Question relative to when printers and projectors would be installed at Gretna High School in some classrooms. Also there is no working FAX at Gretna High School.
 - Parker – Printers cannot be purchased with state funds because they are not a capital item. Only local funds can be used to purchase printers, and there is not enough local funding. One solution has been to connect to a central printer which is used by several teachers. Another possible solution is to ask school P.T.O. for assistance with purchasing new printers. IT will install, however, schools will have to cover the cost of ink cartridges. Mr. Parker encouraged the purchase of Laser Printers over Inkjet Printers.

- Virtual school students are having trouble with MS Works and Office 2007 not being able to save documents.
 - Parker – The default should be set for 2003 and save work in 2003 format. This should correct the problem. Another solution is to use google documents.
- Question relative to computer availability in the high schools for SOL testing in December.
 - Parker – Utilize all the computer labs you possibly can. If more labs are needed contact Wanda Vaughan or Dr. Lillian Holland as soon as possible. Online testing will not be used for all tests at the elementary level at this time. Possibly in 3-5 years.
- Projector in computer lab at Mt. Airy needs replacing.
 - Parker – IT will replace the projector.
- Library circulation system (ATHENA) is old and needs updating.
 - Parker – IT is aware that the library circulation system needs updating. A budget initiative may be necessary as this will cost \$75,000 - \$100,000.
- All employees should have a login and password to use Power School.
 - Parker – Put in a Work Order to IT. Must be an employee to have clearance to use Power School.
- Issue relative to losing network connection at Hurt Elementary School. Problems with some teachers being able to take attendance using Power School at Hurt Elementary School.
 - Wilkerson – Brandon and Marvin are working on the situation at Hurt. It should be resolved by the afternoon. This is not related to the virus issue we have been experiencing.
- There seem to be more networking issues than usual and they seem to be more frequent. Mavis Beacon has not been available for students to use. The drive that has been set up for students to save their work on is not working properly.
 - Wilkerson – Mavis Beacon is on a local server. All software has been moved to a local server and should be fine now. There were problems with the old server and some older items may not be retrievable. Apologies were expressed for this inconvenience. However, let the IT Department know if there is material you are unable to retrieve as soon as possible and they may be able to assist.

Following the discussion of the above items Mr. Parker demonstrated the portable Active Slate being used in some high school classrooms. This comes with a document camera and uses a projector to show the images.

The next meeting will be held in the spring of 2010. The date will be determined and members notified.

The meeting was adjourned.