

Technology Committee Minutes
March 26, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Pana Unit Office Board Room

Chairman Schafer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Schafer, Beyers, McLeod

Members absent:

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors: Scott Savage, David Dively, Jessica Miller

The committee discussed the following:

1. ***Approval of the Minutes from September 5, 2013*** - Motion by Beyers, Second by McLeod
2. ***Update on Internet/Network Issue*** - Mr. Savage provided a brief update on the network/Internet access for the High School and Junior High. The shared bandwidth for the two facilities was increased from 10Mb to 40Mb. This has been a significant improvement, but Mr. Savage explained that with increasing demands on Internet bandwidth he plans to increase this to 300 Mb for the 2015 school year. This increase will be included in the E-Rate application.

In addition, Mr. Savage explained that the district faces a similar problem for the two elementary schools. Currently the Internet access is limited due to the use of copper wiring. Mr. Savage shared information for the installation of fiber optic lines to connect the two schools to the Internet. This would enable the district to increase their capacity to 100 Mb each for next year. Mr. Savage explained that the monthly recurring charges for the lines would be E-Rate eligible while the costs for build out of the fiber optic cables would not. However, Dr. Lett shared that he thought the cost for the installation of the fiber optic cables could be supported by the sales tax revenue that would be coming to the district. In addition, with the closing of Jefferson Middle School, the recurring costs will be slightly less than what the district is currently paying with a considerable upgrade in capacity.

3. ***Building Transition Plan*** – Mrs. Miller reviewed the current plan for moving technology resources to new locations with the closure of Jefferson Middle School. As an example, Mrs. Miller showed the plans for relocating SMART Boards to the elementary schools. Mrs. Miller reviewed a spreadsheet that detailed the plans for each school. In addition, she indicated that a thin client lab would be placed in a classroom near the library at Lincoln School.
4. ***Priorities for FY15 Budget*** – Mr. Savage provided the Committee with several budget priorities for FY15. These included SMART Boards for classrooms that don't have them, thin clients for elementary and high school, access points in every classroom to expand wireless technology, and software subscriptions such as Aristotle Software.
5. ***Phone System Issues*** – Mr. Savage reported to the committee that he was currently working with DNDC on some ongoing phone system issues. Because he was in the middle of resolving the problem he wasn't prepared to offer much more information, but wanted the

committee to know that he was working on the problem in case they heard about it from other sources.

6. **District Social Networking** – Mrs. Miller reported on so of the steps she has taken to promote the district through social networking. She showed the committee the Facebook page she had created for the district. She indicated that it was a “likes” only page. She added that people can comment because she couldn’t limit this, but they weren’t able to post photos, etc. All thought this was a good way to promote the district and the foundation.
7. **Miscellaneous** – Dr. Lett shared with the committee his plan to pilot a one – to – one computing model at the Jr. High. The pilot would start with the 7th grade. He explained that once the model was implemented it would result in a technology fee to parents that would help offset the cost of the Chromebooks to be used. He also explained that students from families that were eligible for free/reduced lunch would receive a reduction on their fee. He added that eventually the textbook fees would be reduced as the district moved away from purchasing textbooks and starting using open-source software instead.
8. **Next Meeting Date** – The tentative date for the next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 5:30p.m. The meeting will focus on the one-to-one initiative.

A motion was made by McLeod and seconded by Beyers to adjourn the meeting of March 26, 2013 at 6:10 p.m.

Member

Member