

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2019

Committee Members Present : L. Andrews, C. Bachofner
Other Board Members Present :
Staff Members Present : J. McDonald, S. Tribou, B. Johnson, L. Walsh, D. Tibbetts, K. Gould, E. McKay
Location : McLain Building, Rockland

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Loren Andrews at 3:31pm.

➤ **Update from the January Instructional Technology Committee meeting that Bruce Johnson and Steffany Tribou are co-chairing this year.**

The Instructional Technology committee met in January and February to begin working on some processes and procedures to help better orient new teachers as well as provide an online support tool that connects teachers with all of the various district platforms. The group is working toward ensuring that technology is supporting instruction as opposed to being a separate entity in schools.

➤ **Discussion with Technology Integrators with a Share-Out of their roles this year**

APCS: It makes a huge difference to have someone who is available every day at a school as opposed to being scheduled at schools. Balancing the library and technology instruction has been an important role, and consistency of availability makes this a vital role.

Question: Is there evidence that teachers are more comfortable using the devices?

Answer: With the new phone system, it is really easy for teachers to reach out and get support, and it seems more immediate.

TGS: It has been helpful to see students weekly. It makes a difference to not just require that students do a video, but to also discuss camera angles and editing. It is also exciting to see possibilities around a continuum of skills (such as robotics and coding). On the teacher front, a technology integrator supports teachers in their focus areas, and it has been helpful to know what teachers' needs are in terms of support. One challenge has been the learning curve of the use of technology with younger students.

SS: Students are coming to some of the higher grade levels (4 and 5) with a higher level of usage due to instruction at school. This allows technology instruction to go deeper.

CCS: Tech integrators often help troubleshoot and put out "fires" when needed. In addition, CCS has a tech team that supports students in troubleshooting so that there is less disruption or need for students and teachers to seek out a tech integrator for support since they are learning ways to help others with technology. Teachers are creating Google Sites, and the tech team uses a Google Classroom. CCS students used the 3-D Printer to create manipulatives for fractions for classrooms.

OMS/OHS: Back to back days are dedicated to each school to try to create some continuity. It is a challenge to be efficient and reactionary to needs when split between buildings. Many questions from teachers tend to be about passwords, getting students into programs, and preventing stumbling blocks to using programs. Librarians at both OMS and OHS help support tech needs when possible when the tech integrator is not there. It would be most beneficial to have someone full time at OMS and OHS as opposed to a split role.

Additional Comments:

Coding: There are multiple coding applications inclusive of many free applications. Most of the coding that is done right now is exposure to coding.

Cyberbullying in early years: Students who are more aware of cyberbullying are the boys who play online games. Girls have less awareness of this or how to deal with it.

Library Technology: Teaching technology use for library purposes has proven useful to students. They are learning how to look up books, rate and review books, and read reviews. In addition, there is a digital library called Epic that is free until 4pm each day.

YouTube: Schools have to be very cautious with using YouTube as a learning tool, but there are alternatives such as BrainPop or curating particular content on a playlist, a website or Google Classroom.

What happens for computer science at the middle school? If someone is hired for the middle school position, might that role include part time teaching of computer science?

II. Other/Adjourn:

*The committee will meet again on **March 25, 2019 at 3:30pm**. Future agenda items to include:*

**Updates*

Committee Chair Thomas adjourned this meeting at 4:39 pm.