

HS Tech Committee Meeting Notes 5-1-15

HS Tech Committee meeting began at 2:45 PM with eleven members in attendance: Alison Spacciapolli, Beth Beaver, David Pihlblad, Liz Hesse, Kelley Ivett, Kelsey Braun, Lynn Kutschke, Matt Bromberg, Paul Mihalko, Roger Chagnon, and Sue Zirkle. We would like to extend a big thank you to Liz for the delicious cookies provided by her Baking Class and allowing us to hold the meeting in her classroom.

Prior to the meeting, Matt had sent out the [Smart Schools Bond Act link](#) so members could view in advance. During the meeting, it was discussed that over \$900,000 could be awarded and appropriated in various ways. The [Smart Schools District Allocations Website](#) explains how the allocation is calculated. There is no deadline to use these funds. Schools would be required to first pay for items and then be reimbursed through the Bond. (This is a similar process to capital improvement projects.)

Matt would like to begin updating classroom technology using Smart Schools Bond Act money by installing HD, interactive projectors. He showed an [Epson Brightlink 595wi](#) video and explained that next summer he would like to have one installed in the band room. This is the best space to showcase the projector as there currently is no projector installed. An Epson Brightlink 595wi projector demo was recently installed in the Elementary Tech Office and all teachers are encouraged to come in and test.

Beth asked how soon until these projectors could be installed. Matt said the Smart School Bond Act will be a lengthy process and our Tech Committee meetings are just the beginning of the planning. Alison wondered if the projectors were mobile or stationary. Matt explained that they would be mounted on the wall in replacement of the ceiling projectors. Roger brought up the fact that these projectors operate very similar to a Smartboard and that there is no shadow.

We will be sending out a link soon to a shared Google Doc that is intended for members to list and share any technology improvement needs, thoughts and/or ideas for the district. We can then further discuss these, as well as any concerns at our next meeting.

Due to staffing reductions, we will be looking into the consolidation of technology and discontinue supporting several technologies next year. Matt discussed that there are significant changes being made to My Big Campus and Beth wondered when teachers could expect to see these changes. The next student content management system to be used in district would be implemented at a much slower pace with professional development support. Paul brought up that many colleges are using Blackboard and Taskstream. Google Classroom is too new and it could also go through a lot of change. Matt said that Schoolwires, the company that owns our webpage, was recently acquired by [Blackboard](#) and hopes that in the near future it will provide a portal for managing student learning. He will look into pricing for Blackboard, as well as Angel.

David Philblad brought up the fact that communication is an issue for some students and it was discussed that all students have a school email as well as Google Apps for Education accounts

Beth Beaver brought up the fact that teachers have difficulty teaching all tech skills and questioned whose responsibility is it because of the lack of a technology teacher in the high

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school. It can be so frustrating because there no extra time to teach tech skills. A full-time tech integrator would be the answer, said Matt, and Smart School Bond Funds cannot be used to employ an integrator. Beth questioned using BOCE/CSLO instructors to teach students, but these trainers are only for teacher professional development. Paul stated that fitting tech classes into the schedule is difficult.

Student's poor typing skills were discussed. Type to Learn 4 is implemented in the grade school, but not at all in the high school. Matt stated that grade levels are currently sharing wired iPad keyboards and soon there will be a set in each classroom. This is in an effort to compliment projects that require typing, etc.

A survey about the technology used most by tech committee members is forthcoming.

Kelley talked about the District Technology Plan that is due for renewal this year. The Smart Schools Bond, as well as BEDS forms, require that we assess our 8th grader's technology skills and that 80% reach mastery level. She asked for input on assessing student technology skills. It was discussed that possibly grades 4, 8 and 12 or grades 5, 7, 9 would be the best years to assess. Also, possibly running the assessment the days prior to (Thanksgiving) vacation would be best. Paul suggested checking with neighboring districts to see what they are using for assessment and when/how it is implemented. He also said to contact gcole@e2ccb.org to see what they are using. He thought possibly a version of CompTIA A+ was being used for their formative assessment.

The need for a teacher's technology survey was also discussed. It was brought up that teachers may be skeptical to take any survey because of its possible effect on APPR. Roger said it is all in how you present it. If we present it with Smart School monies in mind, more teachers may be willing to comply.

Matt talked about the need for a community member to join the Tech Committee and asked if anyone had any suggestions. This is another requirement of Smart Schools.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.