

Student Technology Think Tank

Committee Notes No. 7

October 20, 2015

Introduction:

Kurt Gazow, Executive Director of Technology, opened the meeting at 3:08 p.m. and welcomed the group.

Expanded Draft Review:

Kurt read the recommendations to the group explaining that this second draft has more detail and is a more complete version.

The first part of the recommendation explains the scope and summary. This draft is based on the groups' feedback from the last meeting; this latest draft turned into the recommendations. Included in the recommendation are responses from our team after our visit to Kent and Sammamish.

The group discussed the 8 recommendations:

1. Yes, Bellingham Public Schools should provide a 1:1 computing device to students.
2. A 'pilot' school strategy should be employed at each grade level, starting at high school, then middle, then elementary.
3. A 'whole school' strategy should be used rather than implementing by grade level.
4. Pilot selection and method of use
 - a. Pilot selection: In consideration of where to begin a 1:1 initiative, school leadership, staff readiness, and socio-economic considerations of equity should be considered.
 - b. Devices should be 'take home' in middle and high school, and school-based in elementary schools.
5. The District should focus on online safety as a major part of their roll-out.
6. PD and Support
 - a. PD: Bellingham should invest heavily in professional development (PD) to ensure successful integration.
 - b. Support: Recommendation of onsite PD and technical support, as well as a student-led help desk effort at secondary schools.
7. Digital ink is a prerequisite for any device selection
 - a. Discussion: importance of multiple methods of interface with technology; published research supports improved learning with a hybrid interface; flexibility interface will give make the tool more applicable to multiple outcomes (arts, music, geometry & mathematics, etc.); should add collaboration to that recommendation text; mention of digital ink and OneNote improving homework submission rates, all online, not lost, etc.
8. Bellingham should ensure all 16 outcomes represented in *The Bellingham Promise* are fully supported by a 1:1 technology initiative.

Budgetary Impact:

Kurt reviewed with the group an overall estimate of budgetary needs to implement the recommendations based on currently available data and levy rate information, a summary of which was included in the draft language. Current levy rate data for 2015 comparing the combined levy rate of Whatcom county school districts was reviewed to compare current versus anticipated combined levy rates.

Dr. Mike Copland noted that this is a recommendation to the superintendent, not an overall implementation plan. He further noted that the next step will be discussions, the board study session, and submission of the document to Superintendent Baker.

Kurt noted that once the recommendation is submitted to Dr. Baker, he may have other considerations, and will process further with other groups. Dr. Copland noted that staff meetings at every school would likely be part of processing and planning, occurring between now and January assuming we move it forward.

Notes and questions:

- Capacity needs on the instructional side, concerns about competing measures
- Draft will be shared at the Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS) 10/22-AM
- Draft will be addressed at the Board study session Thursday evening – 10/22-PM
- Feedback requested by the end of this week.
- Clarification requested on how the district will choose a pilot school.
 - School leadership buy in, staff readiness and equity are the 3 major concerns.
- Piloting a program is an added level of ambiguity and is a challenge in early adoption.
- Community will need to recognize that when the word “secondary” is used, it means middle or high school level.
- Discussed percentages of how much goes into devices and how much into staff.
- Discussed new staff support issues once it’s implemented.
- Talking to the community about the last tech levy - what has been accomplished, what was promised and what’s next.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.