Information Technology Advisory Committee
September 17, 2018 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Room 2750, John Stanford Center
2445 3rd Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134

Meeting Notes

Call to Order

Co-Chair John Krull called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. Roll call is as follows:
- Committee Members Present: Jacob Marzynski, Nina Arens, Roy Zimmermann, Troy Hilton, Melissa Westbrook, Bobbie Manne, Jessica Dorr, Brad Shigenaka, Molly Meck, Jason Morrison, Avery Wagar, Christine Billroth, Pauline Amell Nash, TuesD Chambers, Elizabeth Ebersole, Casey Johnson.
- Committee Members Absent: Nick Hernandez, Marika Wong, Burke Fewel, Margarita Guadalupe, Rebecca Spivak, Ahmed Yussuf.
- Other Staff Present: Chief Information Officer John Krull, Chief of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Kyle Kinoshita, Director of Enterprise Applications and Data Services Nancy Petersen, Information Security Manager April Mardock, Digital Learning Manager Rafael Gallardo, Executive Assistant Danielle Johnston.
- Guests of the Committee meeting introduced themselves.

Committee members unanimously accepted the proposed agenda.

Committee members unanimously accepted the August 20, 2018 meeting minutes.

Regular Agenda Items

Chief Information Officer John Krull began by reviewing the newly published Summer Program Report, highlighting several updates including the budget management project, new reporting tools, and the mobile application. He noted that position control is one new feature included in the budget management project, which ensures that open positions are funded.

Pauline Amell Nash and Jacob Marzynski arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Responding to a question from Ms. Westbrook about why more of the budgeted funds have not been spent in the student learning, instructional support, and school support categories, Mr. Krull shared that a philosophy regarding technology in schools is being developed before spending the remaining $14,000,000 for the next two years. There was no specific plan other than replace existing technology for these funds.

Elizabeth Ebersole arrived at 4:39 p.m.

Mr. Krull also highlighted the project to modernize reporting tools and the launch of the Tableau, which was rolled out to principals in August. Live dashboards are available in Tableau for school leaders. Mr. Krull offered to provide a demonstration on data at a future meeting.

Ms. Pauline Amell Nash shared about the new mobile application this was rolled out to support families and staff for resources, which was developed based on feedback data. Mr. Jacob Marzynski expressed his support of an app as a help for parents.

Casey Johnson arrived at 4:44 p.m.

Mr. Krull then went on to review the budget. He pointed out that, while all of our work supports schools and students, a column has been added to the report that shows direct support to the schools versus central office spending, as a response to a request at the last meeting. He explained that the negatives will be cleaned up with budget transfers.

Ms. Christine Billroth inquired about instructional support in the BTA budget and emphasized the need for more support in schools. Mr. Krull shared that there is not a plan to increase the number of Instructional Techology staff in the current budget, but that the use and roles of the technical and instructional support staff is being reconsidered.

Ms. Molly Meck suggested using Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA), as other districts do, to get more specific instructional support aligned to Seattle's curriculum and grade level needs. She also explained that technology used well amplifies student learning.

Ms. Westbrook asked what other districts are using Teachers on Special Assignment, to which Ms. Elizabeth Ebersole replied that she could provide a list and shared that rations in other districts are much better than in Seattle. Mr. Avery Wagar added that if teachers do not know how to use the technology in classrooms, they are unable to teach the students.

Ms. Nina Arens suggested that there be more accountability for teachers to use Schoology across the board. Mr. Wagar and Mr. Marzynski both added that Schoology use depends on class and teacher. Mr. Casey Johnson shared that he would have liked more Schoology professional development and direction as a new teacher. Ms. Westbrook suggested that Schoology and instructional technology be a future conversation. Mr. Krull asked that Mr. Rafael Gallardo find out about how surrounding districts support digital learning.

Special Attention Items

Mr. Krull reviewed the BEX V Community meeting presentation, explaining how technology aligns to district goals, how engagement is driving the priorities, and the history of technology in capital funding.

Responding to a question from Ms. Westbrook about the timing of the levy spending and the technology ask for BEX V, Mr. Krull explained that the BEX V budget is for three years of spending for a six-year levy because the money is collected for six years and spent for three years and that the current recommended ask is about $150,000,000 for technology.

TuesD Chambers arrived at 5:00 p.m.

After questions regarding funding for assistive technology, Mr. Krull explained that assistive technology is current funded by the Student Services department and will be supported by the Department of Technology Services in the future.

Mr. Krull asked for feedback related to the student learning plan. Ms. Ebersole expressed concern that without adequate professional development and support, teachers may not know how to effectively use technology in their classrooms. Ms. Meck reiterated the importance of technology in classrooms to amplify learning.

After Mr. Wagar asked what some examples of unapproved curriculum might be, Mr. Krull inquired about any websites or applications that teachers have asked students to sign up for. Mr. Marzynski and Mr. Wagar both gave TurnItIn as an example, which was being used unofficially across the district and is now being centralized this year. Ms. Ebersole added that centralizing tools provides more security and ownership.

Mr. Wagar expressed concern about students needing to have an email address to verify accounts and urged caution when purchasing tools. Ms. Meck added that teacher input is key. Ms. Westbrook suggested that the discussion about tools continue at a later date.

Mr. Krull continued his review of the BEX community presentation, emphasizing the need for district systems for equity. He shared that student email is being rolled out in pilot schools. He further added that centralizing tools, such as TurnItIn, will allow students to use their district login instead of personal accounts.

Ms. Billroth suggested integrating assistive technology and instructional technology, as they are currently two separate departments.

Next, Chief of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Dr. Kyle Kinoshita reviewed the draft Principles for Effective Technology-Enabled Learning document, which was compiled by a third-party researcher, and will support the district's philosophy on technology supporting teaching and learning. Dr. Kinoshita explained that there will be a glossary of digital learning terms specific to Seattle Public Schools added to this document.

Mr. Troy Hilton expressed concern about a past lack of a sense of urgency related to digital literacy and was glad to see that this document addresses digital literacy. Ms. Ebersole added that this literature review is a good framework, but she is concerned that schools are in different places with technology. Mr. Wagar emphasized the importance of digital literacy and a baseline knowledge for students, as well as the need for more staff to support teachers in classrooms.

Dr. Kinoshita added that, while this research does not answer the resource questions, this information can help us more effectively use our limited resources.

In response to a question from Ms. Arens regarding how this will inform future technology purchases, Dr. Kinoshita explained that with the upcoming science curriculum adoption, these principles will help evaluate the technology interfaces in proposed materials.

Mr. Gallardo shared that a literature review with guiding principles is a typical step to move forward in his experience. He added that a culture and mindset shift is needed and that principles will help us move forward. He emphasized the need to model what is happening now and what will happen in the future.

Ms. Jessica Dorr pointed out a disconnect between student learning levy ask and the principles document and the need to articulate why student learning components and principles are connected. Mr. Jason Morrison added that these principles are great and can help figure out the baseline technology. He also stressed the importance of teacher feedback to be sure that they are informing the district on what they need, so the district is not giving schools tools that they might not need

Dr. Kinoshita then shared his High School Re-visioning, Professional Development, and Technology presentation. He reviewed the changes to graduation credit requirements, which created an opportunity to change instruction in high school to attain 21st century skills and college and career preparation. Providing grants to schools allows the schools to have ownership in their plan, bridging disadvantages of either purely district-determined vs. purely site-based professional development. This grant format also rewards innovative uses for technology and provides a model for other schools. Mr. Krull added that the grants are asking for about 60% computers and 40% other technology.

In response to a question from Mr. Wagar about distributing technology to teachers who might not have the background knowledge to use the technology in their classrooms, Dr. Kinoshita explained that these grants would be providing technology to teachers who are learning to the technology in their classrooms.

Dr. Kinoshita said that he could check into the option of using OPSI professional development courses for technology following a question from Ms. Billroth.

Board Policies and Procedures

Mr. Krull told the committee that Dr. Kinoshita would be following up with committee members to gather feedback on School Board Policy No. 2023 before the policy goes to Curriculum and Instruction committee next month.

Public Comment

In response to a community member's inquiry regarding the vetting of open source curriculum online, Dr. Kinoshita explained that supplemental materials are governed by board policy. Mr. Gallardo added that open source materials are reviewed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and that districts are responsible for deciding which materials will be used.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 15, 2018