Information Technology Advisory Committee
January 25, 2021 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting Notes

Call to Order 4:35 PM

Present	Seat	Name	Present	Seat	Name
x	St1	Avery Wagar	x	S1	Molly Meck
x	St2	Ethan Kraus	x	S2	Pauline Amell Nash
	St3	Jashlin Olivera	x	S3	TuesD Chamber
x	C1	James Wagar	x	S4	Brian Vance
	C2	Marcello Benati	x	S5	Marika Wong
x	C3	Peter Lee		S6	Kevin Black
	C4	Nina Arens	x	S7	Patricia Jennings
x	C5	Anisa Khoshbakhtian	x	S8	Elizabeth Ebersole
x	C6	Jacqui Silvio-Barnes		SA1	Open
x	C7	Pedro Ciriano Perez		SA2	Open
x	C8	Trisha Frazier			
x	CA1	Craig Behnke			
	CA2	Justin Mann			
	Chair	Carlos Del Valle Executive Director of Technology	x	Co-Chair	Pauline Amell Nash ****Selection to be made
		Other Staff Present: Nancy Petersen, April Mardock, Anna Cruz, Judie Jaeger, Aisha Bomani			***Key: (C) Community, (St) Student, (S) SPS Staff

This meeting will be held remotely per the Governor's proclamation prohibiting public agencies from conducting meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act in-person to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Executive Director Carlos Del Valle went over the agenda for the meeting.

James motioned to approve the agenda. Elizabeth seconded.

Elizabeth motioned to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting. James seconded.

Mr. Del Valle briefly went over the budget. He will follow up with Elizabeth to answer her questions about the budget regarding professional development.

Mr. Del Valle introduced himself and gave a brief description of his expectations for ITAC Committee members. Current and new ITAC Members introduced themselves.

IT Manager Anna Cruz presented Data Tools to Support Data Driven Decision Making. She explained business intelligence and where the data is pulled from.

She also gave a brief overview of the School Leader Annual Data. Principals use this tool for School Implement Plans. Ms. Cruz also went over data for Online Platforms Utilization. She also discussed the Discipline Dashboard and how it's used. She ended her presentation discussing Enrollment Dashboard as well as the A-B-C Indicators Report.

ITAC Members and Anna Cruz discussed the Data Tools presentation.

Elizabeth asked what Chief they would ask to get data about the Digital Learning team. Anna asked for clarification if she was asking about staff, tools, or the students. Elizabeth said she is asking about all of it – how teachers are using technology to engage with students and how students are using technology for learning. Anna replied the research team has backend access to the data warehouse. Sometimes, the data they have access to is limited in drawing inferences. As far as which Director start with the manager of that department. Anna continued saying when it comes to drawing inferences, that is for the research department.

Elizabeth asked how the research data was shared with other people. Anna replied it depends on the audience and the purpose of the data being shared.

Jacqui asked if there are groups sifting through the data and looking for correlations. Ms. Cruz replied yes, they rely a lot on the research department. She stated the research being done around online attendance is still very new. Ms. Cruz followed up saying they have long standing partnerships with John Hopkins and the University of Washington that they provide data to and have data sharing agreements with. Mr. Del Valle followed up saying they are also working closely with other groups and it was helpful when setting up Technology Resource Centers.

Craig asked about bullying on external platforms and is the district able to track them. Ms. Cruz will look into it and follow up. Brian said typically if there is an incident on a non-Seattle Public Schools platform, there is no data collection on what platform it was unless the administrator writes it in the disciplinary action.

Mr. Del Valle went over BTA V Planning. The three categories of work are Student Learning and Support, District Systems and Data, and Infrastructure and Security. Last week, Mr. Del Valle briefed the board, and it was done in conjunction with Capitol. He emphasized ITAC should be involved in the development of other projects and the development of the Tech Plan to be approved by the board. He also discussed information technology investments and the areas of funding.

Information Security Manager April Mardock presented the Levy Funding Schedule. She went over some of the biggest cost which included the refresh years, priority (low-high), what levy to target, the next budget, and the last budget.

Mr. Del Valle opened up the discussion for comments, questions, an ideas.

Elizabeth asked to advocate for money to be spent for a baseline home office set up for teachers that includes home internet connection.

Patricia advocated for staff to have the same devices and software students use. Nancy Petersen asked for clarification on which educators needed devices. Patricia clarified that it is needed for SPED, specifically occupational therapy.

Marika says there are other needs for SPED students and the challenges. Some students need a larger screen or better headphones. It has been difficult getting extra devices to homes for students. There is a lot of specialized software that is used, and it's been difficult getting approval for chrome extensions.

Anisa asked if there are creative ways to give students work experience in technology. One idea - if there are additional people needed for tech support, they could partner with City of Seattle to train students and give them a stipend for their work. There is a similar program that gives an elective credit for their work.

James mentioned the nonprofit Two Screens for Teachers saying they provided a monitor to every teacher in Seattle Public Schools and wanted a verification that it happened. Mr. Del Valle said a monitor was given to every teacher that requested during a specific period.

Craig asked about the multiple platforms used to communicate and finish work. Is there a single portal for students to see assignments and communication? Mr. Del Valle replied they have been thinking about how to make that easier for students.

Jacqui asked if there was any in-house product development for learning systems. Judie Jaeger said there is a small team that does custom development, and they try to do as much planning as they can so they can plan and budget to make it successful.

Open Comments:

James mentioned notes around a discussion of walled garden vs. unwalled garden e-mail.

Adjourn: 6:00. Elizabeth moved adjourn. Peter seconded.