## **Information Technology Advisory Committee**

February 16, 2021 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Microsoft Teams Meeting

## **Meeting Notes**



## Call to Order 4:35 PM

Present	Seat	Name	Present	Seat	Name
	St1	Avery Wagar		S1	Molly Meck
X	St2	Ethan Kraus	X	S2	Pauline Amell Nash
	St3	Jashlin Olivera		S3	TuesD Chamber
X	C1	James Wagar		S4	Brian Vance
	C2	Marcello Benati		S5	Marika Wong
X	C3	Peter Lee		S6	Kevin Black
	C4	Nina Arens		S7	Patricia Jennings
X	C5	Anisa Khusbakht		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			
X	CA2	Justin Mann			
	Chair	Carlos Del Valle	X	Co-	Pauline Amell Nash
		Executive Director of		Chair	
		Technology			****Selection to be made
		Other Staff Present: Nancy			***Key: (C) Community, (St)
		Petersen, William Drake,			Student, (S) SPS Staff
		Judie Jaeger, Aisha Bomani			

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 discussed the agenda for the meeting.

Peter motioned to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup> agenda. James seconded. It passed unanimously.

Peter motioned to approve the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. The request was seconded. It passed unanimously.

Carlos mentioned a change in the Agenda.

Mr. Del Valle discussed the budget. He answered Elizabeth's question regarding item 13 on the budget. Line 20 on the budget covers Student Learning Support. There is around \$600K earmarked for professional development. So far, they have spent around 90K. There is a report due in June to discuss what the digital equity and technology grant was spent on.

IT Manager for Student Systems and Support William Drake gave a presentation on SPS Enterprise Applications. Mr. Drake discussed over who is on his team, what they do, an overview of student information systems, who they train, their training courses, and their current/emerging projects.

A question in the chat asked what the start of school means. Judie replied that generally the start of school means September. There has been conversation about a return in March for some students.

Director of Technology Infrastructure Nancy Petersen presented on BTA V Planning. She displayed the Technology Infrastructure purchases under \$250K that included storage carts for student devices and kiosks for student health attestations.

Jacqui asked how many total hotspots and will they be available next year. Nancy replied we have about 2,000 hotspots. Not knowing how school will look next year, we are not sure how many we will have. Jacqui asked if 2,000 was enough and is there an effort to improve internet access for families. Nancy replied we are working with Comcast to provide internet essentials for families. They have also been working with the city to set up another partnership. Aisha follows up saying the Alliance for Education has a line budget for No Need Funds for families to use for basic needs. Now the technology department has a line to help with internet instability. The funds are being used for families to get out of internet debt.

Pedro asked about communication with CBOs regarding recovering laptops and hotspots from students. Nancy replied they have not been in communication, but they have thought about what they will do this summer. They have to work out the timing to swap devices with students. They do realize some of the students need devices and hotspots this summer.

Peter Asked about hard drive replacement. Nancy replied when we do replacements, we work to make sure we have enough capacity. We are using cloud-based storage in lot of cases. There are some things that are best using on-site storage. Some of the storage is in the cloud. That makes it easier for disaster recovery.

## **Public Comments**

Ethan talked about his experience with online learning.

Jacqui asked how students felt about maximizing technology without being dependent on it. Carlos replied it will depend on the investments we make today.

Trisha asked if it is possible to answer questions on the budget over e-mail. Carlos said he will take questions at any time. Send him the questions and he will get you an answer.

Trisha asked a question about 1:1 and family devices. James replied 1:1 meant 1:1 device provided by the school. They have a BOYD (bring your own device) policy for families that had devices. Nancy followed up saying 1:1 is one device for each student. They found with high school students, only about 80-85% would come get a laptop. They were using their own devices even if they were not invited to. They have continued to purchase and identify funding and we are closer to providing devices for every child.

Pedro asked what kind of devices students have. Nancy answered 3-12 have Dell laptops, Pre-K-2 have iPads and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has detached keyboards. Pedro asks if the students are able to download programs on their laptop that allow them to code. Nancy replied the downloads are restricted plus there is limited hard drive space. If CBOs are interested in teaching computer classes, it would be helpful to talk to them about what is being taught in classes and look at adding a program.

Justin asked are we exploring options to limit the negative side effects of computer time on every student. Nancy said they have looked at it. For screen time, they are doing a pilot test with iPads. They are turning on the screen time app that allows parents to manage how their student's device is used. There is some nervousness around giving parents control. Some of the resources that are referenced use YouTube and that is what they have been asked about the most. However, the browsers are locked down for searches.

Justin asked if the issue with YouTube is a cost issue for teachers. Nancy said they've encouraged teachers to post things through streaming instead of YouTube but it is a lot of development time. Teachers say there are a lot good educational resources on YouTube that they want to use. The are advocates saying if they block YouTube on district devices, the families that have their own devices at home can use YouTube. The students without home devices could not.

Pedro suggests we should be educating parents on how to monitor what students are doing.

Jacqui asked is there a way to get reporting on what students are visiting. Nancy suggest having a follow up conversation with April about the current filters we use.

Trisha asked about access pickups. Nancy replied during the spring and summer we had pick ups during various hours. Nancy will give feedback to schools to have hours that are flexible for parents.

Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting. James seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:53PM

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for March 15th.