

Information Technology Advisory Committee

July 20, 2026, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting



Meeting Notes

Call to Order: 4:35

Present	Seat	Name	Present	Seat	Name
	St1	Gavan Bess		S1	James Brook
x	St2	Rafael Brewer	x	S2	Kendra Beseler
	St3		x	S3	Eric Ramsey
	St4	David Nguyen		S4	Jonathan Fox
x	C1	Wacarra Yeomans		S5	Kathleen Daspit
	C2	Kiley Riffell	x	S6	Timothy Johnson
	C3	Michelle Tanco		S7	Sarah Werner
x	C4	Sarah Ramsay		S8	April Mardock
x	C5	Jo Hemmerlein		SA1	
x	C6	Daniel Tobin		SA2	
	C7	Nicole Buckenwolf			
	C8	Clayton Hamilton			
	CA1	Michael Kollins			
x	CA2	Brady Dibble			
	Chair			Co-Chair	
		Other Staff: James Rigert, Debra Knickerbocker, Robert Cook			***Key: (C) Community, (St) Student, (S) SPS Staff

- A committee member motioned to approve July 20, 2026 ITAC Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- A committee member motioned to approve June 15, 2026 ITAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Del Valle opened the meeting informing the committee of some key departures in the Department of Technology Services. Victoria Ouk, Jay McSweeney, and John Thorius left the district. He also informed the group of his outlined plans for hiring and a new budget analyst with Victoria's assistance. Mr. Del Valle assured the group that budget reporting will resume once the new analyst is hired and trained.

Budget

Mr. Del Valle discussed the timing of software contract payments, anticipated increased spending in upcoming reports, and explored strategies for allocating technology funds to roles directly supporting students. He also identified roles where portions of their work can be funded by technology budgets, helping relieve pressure on the general fund.

When asked if teachers, who use technology extensively, could be partially funded by the technology budget. Mr. Del Valle responded that this could be a possibility under legal review. There will be a meeting scheduled in around three weeks to discuss it further.

Microsoft Enterprise Licences BAR

IT Manager James Rigert presented the upcoming two-year Microsoft Enterprise license renewal. He explained the district is pursuing a two-year Microsoft Enterprise license renewal due to interlocal contract limitations, with plans to return to a three-year contract via RFP in 2029. He highlighted Microsoft is offering free Copilot Studio licenses for two years as part of Project Elevate, initially for staff, with potential future expansion to students pending governance and evaluation.

Rafael asked about student discounts on Microsoft products; James clarified that students could access standard discounts by proving student status, similar to Apple's education store, but not specific to Seattle Public Schools. He also inquired about student access to Copilot Studio. James explained that while the framework is available, its use by students depends on decisions by curriculum and instruction teams and is not guaranteed.

Jo questioned the choice of licenses; James detailed the evaluation process, noting that the A5 license was selected for its comprehensive coverage, automation needs, and favorable student-to-staff license ratios, with additional antivirus licensing for devices.

ITAC Membership Application Process and Committee Composition

Mr. Del Valle reviewed the ITAC membership application process, including committee composition, application timelines, scoring rubric, and member continuation, with input from committee members regarding their intentions to continue or step down.

Rafael suggested emailing applications to all students to increase student participation, and Mr. Del Valle agreed to implement this.

Public Comments

Rafael raised concerns about the recent SPS website redesign, describing navigation issues and lack of departmental listings, and asked Carlos about DOTS' involvement, to which Carlos clarified that communications, not DOTS, handled the redesign and promised to follow up.

Mr. Del Valle and Digital Learning Manager Debra Knickerbocker discussed upcoming board sessions on technology use in classrooms, referencing community engagement feedback and plans to seek ITAC input on safe and purposeful technology use, with a working session scheduled for December.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15

