

**Oak Park and River Forest High School
201 N. Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302**

**Technology Committee
Tuesday, April 16, 2013
Board Room**

A Technology Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the Board Room. Dr. Millard opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A roll call included the following members: Terry Finnegan, Valerie J. Fisher, Terry Finnegan, Amy McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John Phelan. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Mike Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Karin Sullivan, Community Relations and Communications Director; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included James Paul Hunter, FSEC Chair; Jeff Weissglass, Thomas F. Cofsky, Dr. Steven Gevinson, Board-elect members; Mary Jo Hanley of the League of Women Voters; Cathy Yen of the Boosters; Pat and David Bates and Carollina Song, community members and others; Noreen Karadsheh of NovaCare; Robert Wroble of Legat; Al Steffeter of Henry Bros., OPRFHS Micheline Piekarski, Director of Food Service, Paul Wright and Robert Zummallen, Director of Buildings and Grounds; and Matt Kirkpatrick, Division Head.

Discussion of Technology Innovation Ideas/Presentation of Examples of Technology in the Classroom

Mr. Prale and Mr. Carioscio shared how innovated technology can and are being used in the classrooms. OPRFHS is supporting the use of technology in the classroom with the hiring of a non-certified, instructional technology director and has implemented a Faculty Technology Innovation Committee. World Languages, Science, and Special Education (assistive technology) are areas in which innovated technology is being used in the classroom.

The instructional technology director will plan, develop, and coordinate instructional technology to provide educational opportunities for students, teachers, and administrative staff by performing the following duties personally or through the coordination of technology and library staff. The job responsibilities of this person will include:

- 1) Development of a roadmap for technology utilization in the classroom;
- 2) Agreement from the administration to obtain the necessary resources in order to implement the roadmap;
- 3) Communication of the roadmap to faculty and modification, as appropriate;
- 4) Development of a technology professional development (PD) plan within the District PD framework to support the implementation of the roadmap; and
- 5) Implementation of the technology PD plan.

The Faculty Technology Innovation Committee has involved teachers directly in the process of evaluating and choosing technology. The process is included recruiting teachers and meeting with them to discuss technology tools and applications that can aid instruction. Discussion at the initial meetings included:

- 1) Learning management system
- 2) Push applications
- 3) Paperless options
- 4) Inbox/Outbox
- 5) Student access to technology, student efficacy, agency
- 6) iPad subgroup
- 7) Smart board/one-note tutorials
- 8) Technology site visits
- 9) Digital literacy, student skills

Of these topics, the teachers self-selected into the following special-interest groups: 1) utilizing iPad devices in the classroom and 2) digital literacy for students. Site visits were made to District 214 and to the Leyden District. The committee plans to engage special-interest groups to brainstorm plans for proofs of concept and pilots related to their respective technologies.

Mr. Kirkpatrick provided each Board of Education member temporarily with an iPad in order to demonstrate how iPods are used in the classroom. In an attempt to help students organize, engage, and be more efficient, Mr. Kirkpatrick introduced the program Dropbox to his ILS 1 and 2 classes. The textbook for this class was made available on the iPad, students are able to handwrite their notes and assignments with the use of a program called NoteWriter, and they can turn in their assignments electronically. No paper is necessary. All students can create, defend, and present their work. A one-to-one format forces students to present and to engage. The results were as follows:

1. Lost papers eliminated
2. Dramatic increase in work completion
3. Increase in students working independently at various paces
4. Focus on understanding and improvement

The next steps include proliferation into the remaining ILS 1-2 sections (75 students a day). A question to be considered is whether achievement would be accelerated by sending devices home with students.

Mr. Kirkpatrick appreciated the encouragement and support from Mr. Carioscio and Mr. Prale with regard to taking a risk and the technical support from the Educational Technology Department.

Mr. Kirkpatrick will continue this work next year. He believes this helps teachers to be more organized as well as allows for more recording and archiving. Students are personalizing their learning environment. Other schools such as District 214 use iPad pilots in math, social science, and English with other applications. Other schools use a software program in PE, allowing the students to view the alignment of their body and make corrections. District 214 students take their iPads home. Discussion ensued about District 90's successful experience of allowing students to take their iPads home. There had been little loss or damage, and it had been supplemented with a small insurance program costing approximately \$15.

The interview committee was scheduled to choose a slate of candidates for the first round of interviews for the director of instructional technology position. Additional discussion has occurred about the skills required and desired, e.g., experience with innovation and implementation of technology in the classroom. As such, the posting may be reopened to draw new candidates. Discussion ensued about whether a faculty member could be hired to develop teacher mentors for each division, etc., as they had the interest and the ability derived from instruction and teaching. The administration had felt that a faculty member would be limited in what he/she could accomplish during the day. Mr. Carioscio stated that the instructional technology director's job would be to motivate the organization and find the best way to support the faculty.

Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Millard adjourned the meeting.

Amy McCormack
Secretary