

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

**Technology Committee
Tuesday, October 16, 2012
Board Room**

A Technology Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 in the Board Room. Dr. Millard opened the meeting at 8:36 p.m. A roll call included the following members: Terry Finnegan (arrived at telephonically at 8:44 p.m.), 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; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mike Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board, Karin Sullivan, Community Relations and Communications Director.

Visitors included Vernecia Davis, University of Illinois doctoral student, and Julie Lam, student of Lewis University.

Mr. Carioscio reviewed the PowerPoint slides he included in the packet that covered online textbooks, student access to technology (1:1), blended learning, multimedia access/usage, assessment tools, and information systems.

With respect to online textbooks, the District is continually negotiating with publishers on different textbooks. At this time, publishers are not willing to tackle the high school market with online offerings that are cost-effective or useful. APPLE will become more of a factor within the next three to five years and publishers will be forced to become more aggressive with electronic offerings. The District will continue to push publishers, explore public domain texts where appropriate, and coordinate efforts with student technology efforts, i.e., preloading textbooks on devices.

With regard to student access to technology, the District's own pilots have shown high costs associated with providing district equipment. Over the succeeding three to five years, some form of technology will be utilized by every student in the school and instructional plans will include a student technology component. The District must have consistent updates of its polices, wireless infrastructure and internet capacity. The IT Department plans to work with the administration and the Board of Education to establish a funding model, either one where the District supplies the technology or the students bring them own devices (BYOD). Work will continue with instructional leaders as well to determine how to integrate technology into the classroom. Policies will be researched to support mass introduction of student technology and the District will plan to perform necessary technology infrastructure upgrades.

Blended learning models currently in use include APEX, BYU, Moodle, Teachscape, etc. There is an increasing interest among staff and students for online/blended opportunities. Over the next three to five years, the District will develop and incorporate blended learning options in all areas of the academic program, consider technology platforms for blended learning to provide consistent support and user experience and provide regular upgrades to school policies. The strategy is to provide development opportunities and support, work with instructional leaders to determine how to incorporate this learning in the classroom, and to perform necessary technology infrastructure upgrades.

With respect to multimedia usage, faculty and staff are producing and consuming multimedia content at a significantly increasing rate, and this will continue. As more and more student devices are introduced into the environment, the existing infrastructure may not be sufficient. The District will continue to monitor the plans for increasing technology in the District to ensure that the plans do not exceed network capacity to support the technology. All facility plans must include a technology component, i.e., power stations for charging devices, increased wireless access to support additional devices, impact of improving wireless access to support additional devices.

Formative assessments by the faculty continue to grow, and there are several different technology tools being used to collect formative and summative information (clickers, TI Calculators, Mastery Manager, etc.). There will be no let down in the next three to five years. The District will determine which technologies are the most useful for gathering the assessment information and will ensure that the student information system can effectively integrate and report out the assessment information. TI-Nspire calculators are being used for some assessments.

The District strives to do a better job of making decisions based on data, but there are procedural challenges. The current student information system is not adept at reporting out complex items. In three to five years, reporting tools will become more sophisticated and cost effective. Self-service will become the norm, rather than the exception. People always want to take a different look at data. Professional development will become critical. It is imperative that the District make sure its data has integrity. The District continues to evaluate and expand its tool set to improve the quality and increase the quantity of actionable reports.

The District staff does attend conferences sponsored by Skyward at which issues are addressed. Chris Thieme (Data Systems Manager) is a member of its user group that provides feedback to Skyward. A proposal was submitted to present at the Illinois Computing Educators Conference in the spring. District 200 also meets with Districts 90 and 97 to share information. The Chicago Area of Curriculum and Instruction (CADCA) had as one of its agenda items the blending learning topic. Ms. Witham attended a session on technology at an international conference and learned that most schools do allow students to bring their own devices.

The topic of computer labs and site locations was discussed. Mr. Carioscio stated that in the future computer labs would be quite different. Spaces where students can use their own devices will probably be maintained. Computer carts provide some freeing up computer labs. In the future, there may be spaces for collaboration and/or specialized technology, science labs, probes, etc. Labs will still exist. With respect to how internet access via technology could be used, Mr. Carioscio stated that it could be through tethering or through cards, which carry a cell phone signal. It might come into play for those students who do not have internet access at home. Questions about internet access will be part of the survey.

Adjournment

At 9:09 p.m., Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Fisher. Voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Terry Finnegan
President

Amy McCormack
Secretary