



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Board members present: Nick Braccio, Janet Flisak, Bill Formica, Tom Kwiatkowski, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson,

Others present: Brigitte Bagocius, Brandon Bilohlavek, Henry Franz, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Bill Hazel, Katherine Huggiey, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Walt Salevsky, Michael Taylor, David Thayres, Megan Zweiback

1. Technology Committee

1.1 Technology Update

Mr. Braccio called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M., noting that the purpose of the meeting this evening is to give a brief informational overview of the Technology Department.

Dr. Gallagher noted that a similar update was given last year and introduced Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Technology Dr. Kennedy-Reilly.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly thanked everyone for coming and introduced Supervisor of Technology Walt Salevsky. The core members of the Technology team introduced themselves from the audience. In attendance were Web Development Specialist Brigitte Bagocius, Network Systems Administrator Brandon Bilohlavek, Digital Media Specialist Henry Franz, Device Manager Bill Hazel, Database Administrator Katherine Tuggey and Technical Support Specialist David Thayres.

A slide presentation was presented outlining Summer Technology work, the Supporting District Operations, and Year-Round Technology Work. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly emphasized that the Technology Department is embedded in all district departments in some capacity.

Summer Technology work on hardware included teacher device refresh and preparation for classroom installation. Student device collection which occurs at the end of the school year - after which all devices are reimaged, end of life devices recycled, and implementation plan of device distribution for new school year. In addition, classrooms are set-up with instructional displays. On the software side of technology, there are roll overs of student databases, reconfigurations of systems and updated to SIS (Student Information Systems) integrations.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the special projects that were performed during the summer which included network rebuilds at Indian Crest Middle School and Franconia Elementary School. An E-Rate filing has been submitted for network rebuild at Vernfield and Salford Hills Elementary Schools.

Mr. Salevsky reviewed the items which encompass school district operations. He noted that building support has become more sophisticated with an increasing reliance on technology. These areas include HVAC, lighting, security for cameras and readers, and food service point of sale terminals.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated the specific projects that were supported by the Technology Department this summer. A new copier fleet was rolled out with key fob implementation, a new networked camera system, support of the Indian Valley Middle School and the Franconia Elementary School renovation projects (HVAC, doors, cameras, phones and more) AlertUs panic button system, and the cutovers from NetCarrier to Comcast.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reiterated the year round support responsibilities of the Technology Department which include support for all students, staff and department operations. The networking system for wired and wireless local area networks, wide area networks and internet access as well as network security. System administration manages servers and databases, backups and monitoring.

In addition the department is also responsible for the support, vetting, purchasing and licensing of device applications. Another task and responsibility of the Technology Department is communications and web presence. An integral piece of this is ClassLink which hosts 90 different apps available across the district. These apps range from a weblink to the HUB to a SSO app to SeeSaw.

A slide was shared that outlined the Data & Systems Integration of Performance Matters which is the student information system. This 12-week implementation involved quite a few members of the technology team to create and establish a comprehensive user-friendly site which will offer analytics and assessment capabilities to teachers and staff.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that the Technology Department is responsible for PIMS Data Collection and Reporting. PIMS is the Pennsylvania Information Management System which houses all student data facilitated through all district departments. Collection and reporting of data is required by PDE.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reported on the continuous improvement of mass communications within the district and beyond. The district continues to provide communication to families in formats to serve all including email, text/SMS as well as in the preferred language of each household.

Finally, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly highlighted the importance of Cybersecurity including endpoint protections, identity protections, and Multi-Factor Authentication. The district takes its security measures seriously and provides awareness campaigns to prevent phishing attempts.

Technology Committee Chairperson Mr. Braccio thanked everyone for the presentation and their performance. He commented that technology may be seen in physical devices, there are miles of data communication and access points that is unseen. He reinforced the responsibility of the Technology Department and that every single part of the school district is touched by technology.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about the switch over from Performance Plus to Performance Matters and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that by September 30th the new system will be fully implemented. She also noted that there has been a positive reception by teachers who appreciate the intuitive nature of the system.

Mr. Kwiatkowski also inquired about phishing identification and Mr. Salevsky responded that a button is made available for end users to submit questionable content directly to the Technology Department.

Mr. Braccio adjourned the Technology Committee Meeting at 7:03 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

2.1 Financing Discussion - Future Capital Projects

Mr. Kwiatkowski called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher stated the current renovation projects at Franconia Elementary School and Indian Valley Middle School are going well. He stated that the next multi-year plan includes renovations to Salford Hills, Indian Crest and West Broad Street schools. The following finance discussion will support these capital projects.

Dr. Gallagher reiterated that the administration will be asking for a vote to work with PFM Financial Advisors at the September Board Action Meeting. An approval would allow for a max parameter bond issue to be in October.

Mr. Taylor indicated that this meeting is summary of the discussion held in August with an initial borrowing of \$10M in 2024 and additional borrowing up to \$60M starting in 2025. Mr. Taylor explained the borrowing laws as stipulated by the Internal Revenue Service, along with bank qualification considerations and a reimbursement resolution.

Mr. Taylor reviewed a slide showing an illustration of the proposed borrowing as prepared by PFM Financial Advisors. It outlined debt structure and debt service. Mr. Taylor stated that upon the completion of the proposed projects that beyond normal maintenance and repair that all building major projects and renovations would be complete.

A Projected Timeline was reviewed that suggested Board approval on September 28 to authorize the finance team to proceed. On October 26th a Max Parameters sale would be approved. In January of 2024 the district would enter into a competitive internet auction and projected settlement of bonds would occur in February 2024 (or later). A second phase of bonds to be issued in Winter/Spring 2025.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked Mr. Taylor and praised the history of district cash management and its financial decisions.

Mrs. Flisak inquired about the Plan Con reimbursement and Mr. Taylor noted that Plan Con has only been funding its past projects and currently does not exist for new debt issuances. Mr. Taylor stated that if Plan Con would change its availability, the district would certainly apply for that reimbursement. Mr. Braccio asked about the district's current Plan Con reimbursements and Mr. Taylor noted that the district is only receiving a very small portion of its budget funds from Plan Con reimbursement.

A brief discussion occurred regarding borrowing for future capital projects.

Dr. Gallagher commented on the capital projects noting the improvements are an investment into the buildings for the safety and comfort of students and staff.

Mr Kwaitkowsk asked about the recent development proposing a requirement to satisfy some students needs to the age of 22 (instead of 21). Dr. Gallagher noted that injunctions currently exist within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and no decisions have been made yet, on this new ruling.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs