

Smart Schools Minutes

2-6-17

Present: Carl Guidotti, Suzanne Hunter, Brian Jones, Marie Wilcott, Helen Hasselbeck, Laura Bosinski, Michelle Krieger, and Laurie Gregory

Michelle reviewed some of the ideas for using Smart Schools funds that were shared at the last meeting and where we are with those initiatives.

Carl talked about how he offered an after school program for students to stay and use the internet for homework time. Even after doing various School Messenger messages, he only had one student at most stay. So he discontinued the program. Survey results showed that many do not see internet connectivity at home as a problem. However, some people feel that it is. Heather shared (prior to meeting) that Time Warner apparently sent out a survey a long time ago to see who was interested in internet service. This may be why there is such spotty coverage. There is a list of areas coming out that are going to be getting better service. Vermont Hill should be on the list.

Michelle talked about how the Clear Touch boards for the Junior Senior High and Elementary have been taken care of through our budget.

Michelle talked about how some of the security items we have discussed in the past are being covered by our upcoming capital project, but there are some other items we could add. Laura talked about how we will be doing a capital outlay project that will include door security and swipe cards. This will be done on the Junior Senior High School but they are going to order spare card readers and install them in the Elementary School.

Laura talked about how we could cover some of the other security items scheduled to be part of the capital project with Smart Schools funds and then do more work in the Junior Senior High. Carl talked about how cameras could be very helpful. Our current door system has such a fuzzy picture that you can't really see who it is. Helen talked about how it helps to ensure no students get forgotten or left at school alone.

Suzanne asked about the cameras for the interactive white boards for distance learning. Michelle said that was already going to be in the elementary principal's budget.

Helen mentioned that she feels like using the funds for the cameras and security items is a no brainer. It seems like it would be an easy thing to do. So much has been covered and we are in a really good place.

Michelle mentioned how schools who applied a long time ago are just receiving their funds now, so even if we had jumped on this earlier we still probably wouldn't have anything yet.

Brian talked about how sometimes when we are in the middle of a project, new necessary repairs can come up. So it never hurts to pull out something and have some extra to work with.

Members of the committee asked questions about how the Smart Schools reimbursement process works. Laura explained it to them.

Brian talked about how he feels we should spend the entire amount of our allocation. Laura talked about how you can do multiple projects and there is no end date, so we don't have to spend it all this year.

Teachers asked about using the money for devices and Michelle talked about how our device replacement plan has to be sustainable, and we already have that built into our budget.

Helen and Marie mentioned the idea of just spending part of the money on the security items now since we have things we need. Then we still have some left to decide on, but we can at least get that going. It is important to protect ourselves.

Suzanne Hunter moved to take the bundle of security items, including phones, out of the capital project and use the Smart Schools funds for it. Brian Jones seconded it. The committee unanimously agreed.

The committee also agreed to reconvene after this project to discuss how it went and what other projects they might like to do in the future.

Suzanne Hunter asked about how they could get \$10,000 worth of Little Bits kits. Laura explained that that would not be eligible for Smart Schools funds but she should let her building principal know about her wish list.

Michelle reminded everyone about our Smart Schools web page and showed everyone how to go to it to find agendas, minutes, and other information about the Smart Schools Bond process. Michelle shared that she took input from all members who were absent today, including parents and students.