

BOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026

Tredyffrin/Easttown Administrative Offices, Room 200

7:00 p.m.

Attending all or part of the meeting:

Board Committee Members: Roberta Hotinski (Chair), Nicole Scherer – by phone, Rachel Weil

Other Board Members: Kenneth Hong, Dr. Julie K. Mesaros, Sue Tiede

TE School District Representatives: Wendy Towle (Administrative Liaison), Richard Gusick, Patrick Gately, Mike Szymendera

Community Members: Jean Faber

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Discussion and Recommendations:

The Committee reviewed the minutes from November 6, 2025.

The Committee received the **Technology Update** from Dr. Mike Szymendera, Director of Educational Program. Dr. Szymendera first shared an artificial intelligence (AI) update, providing background information about generative AI use and performance, as well as the District's emphasis on teaching about AI, teaching for AI, and teaching with AI along with the skills needed for students to make sense of information (information literacy, data literacy), to provide user input (prompt engineering, dialogue, questioning), to evaluate AI output (verification, critical interpretation), and to engage in critical thinking (curiosity, metacognition, cognitive flexibility, ethical reasoning, and self-regulation). Dr. Szymendera explained the District's current Digital Citizenship Curriculum for students in kindergarten through 8th grade, which includes new and future lessons on AI, along with many other areas of appropriate technology use for students. Dr. Szymendera used Bloom's Two Sigma Problem to emphasize that proper use of AI by students provides an opportunity to realize some of the benefits of one-on-one tutoring for students and that Microsoft's Copilot Chat provides a way for T/E students at Conestoga High School to become engaged in using AI safely. Microsoft's Copilot Chat includes the following safety features: age-based access controls that ensure COPPA compliance; maintains Microsoft enterprise-grade security; student data is not used to train AI models; provides a 'walled garden' environment managed by the District. Dr. Szymendera detailed the guidelines for student and staff use of AI in the District, including the following guidelines for students: students are allowed to use generative AI if they choose and high school teachers can direct students to use Microsoft Copilot while they are logged in with their District account, but teachers cannot direct students to use any generative AI other than Microsoft Copilot. Dr. Szymendera shared the draft Levels of Acceptable Use of AI for District Students document, detailing the expectations teachers can establish prior to activities and assignments. Dr. Szymendera explained the Staff Development opportunities that have and continue to be provided to teachers, and the work of the District's AI Workgroup, including sub-workgroups

focused on the international Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) AI Implementation Pillars (Teaching and Learning: Unlocking AI's Potential, Professional Learning: Building AI Confidence, Guardrails for Responsible Use of AI and, for Administrators, Leadership in the Age of AI). Dr. Szymendera answered questions from Committee members.

Dr. Szymendera explained the District's current rules and procedures for cell phone use by students, along with information about Pennsylvania's Senate Bill 1014 (approved by the Senate Education Committee, but not yet approved by the Pennsylvania General Assembly), which would require the School Board to adopt a policy that would have to prohibit student use of mobile devices and establish the manner in which a student's possession of a mobile device would be restricted during the school day.

Dr. Szymendera reviewed the District's one-to-one technology initiative and the District's implementation of Securly, a web filtering program with three components (Securly Filter for grades K-5, Securly Aware for grades K-12, and Securly Home for grades K-5). Dr.

Szymendera explained that the District will continue to expand Securly Home along with the implementation of Chromebooks so it will eventually be available for grades K-8.

Dr. Szymendera answered questions from Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Next meeting: February 12, 2026