

## Technology & BRAC Committee Meeting

October 16, 2017 – 5:30 pm Center of Gravity, Troy, NY  
**Agenda and Minutes**

### Goals for the meeting:

Explore the Center of Gravity facility in Troy, NY. Gather ideas for use in our schools.

Agenda Item	Essential Questions/Topic	Time	Materials	Notes
<b>Introductions</b>	Brief Overview of the Facility by Holly Cargill, Executive Director	15 min	None	Call to Order – 5:35 p.m. Attendance: Technology Committee Members and BRAC Committee Members
<b>Tour of Facility</b>	What are you seeing that you would like to find out more about?	60 min	None	Mr. Goodwin welcomed members of the Technology Committee and BRAC to the Center of Gravity. Ms. Cargill-Cramer, Executive Director provided an overview of the mission and vision of the Center. She said the core is the makerspace, described as an abundance of workshops, work stations, tools, and collaboration spaces. The purpose is to enhance innovation among the community of enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and professionals of many ages, genders, ethnicities, interests, nationalities, life experiences, and educational backgrounds. The Executive Director emphasized that a number of volunteers staff the Center, provide funding and give various in-kind support. The organization continually looks for grant funding since it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.  Ms. Cargill-Cramer spoke of the economic

			<p>development over time in downtown Troy. She said the area is third in software development in the United States, and companies want to retain talented individuals after college for work.</p> <p>Ms. Cargill-Cramer explained that there are several workspaces in the building to support incubator businesses. Space may be rented, and there are several levels of membership to fit individual needs.</p> <p>Ms. Cargill-Cramer gave committee members a tour of the areas, noting each has a zone coordinator: woodshop, 3D printers, electronics, fiber arts, welding, machine shop, model shop, laser cutter, kitchen, stock room, IT, and ThinQubator. She said that consumable materials are generally free, although there is an expectation that individuals with high usage will donate back materials.</p> <p>Additional information is available on the Center of Gravity website at <a href="http://www.tvcog.net">www.tvcog.net</a>.</p>
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**Debrief**  
How does this information connect with what you are doing in the classroom?

The responses follow::

- A. Resource access is a large issue, particularly with planning for Next Generation Science Standards
- B. Release time is requested for teachers to come back to the Center and plan possible field trips for students and curriculum projects at school
- C. Consistency in resources and curriculum is desired across the elementary schools
- D. Webex may be a means to bring classrooms together for work previously done in the TV studio
- E. Awareness that US companies compete globally is important

- F. Classroom content is isolated and more team and cross-curricular projects are desirable
- G. School district budgetary resources will likely be needed to advance technology in the schools for consistency
- H. The SED application for Smart Schools is pending and includes 1:1 Chromebooks for Grades 3-12, wireless access points and 50 interactive displays
- I. A cyclical replacement plan has been developed for the Chromebook purchase and has been shared with the committee
- J. Observations have been made that students in other schools have fully digital textbooks for use
- K. Coding is an important skill and students should be introduced at an early age
- L. Teacher professional development is important when rolling out any new technologies expected to be used in the curriculum
- M. A software survey is being distributed to staff this fall to collect information for budgeting purposes
- N. Some individuals are interested in e-portfolios for students, such as See-Saw
- O. Students are asking for more technology
- P. Libraries are potential locations for makerspace activities
- Q. Investment in software is needed at the same time as investment in infrastructure
- R. Student volunteers may be desirable for Middle School help desk activities

<b>Communication</b>	Around the Table	5 min		Adjournment – 7:25 p.m.
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## Technology Committee 2017-2018 Meeting Schedule

**All Meetings 5:30-7:00pm (Mondays)  
Normally at Two Locations: CHS Library/Genet Elementary Conference Room**

**September 11 - CHS Library Classroom , comments on Tech Plan due by 9/8 (email)**

**February 5 - CHS, Tech Requests due by Feb 1st**

**October 16 - Center of Gravity, Troy NY**

**March 5 - Genet Conference Room, Tech Requests due by Feb 26th**

**November 6 - Genet Conference Room, Tech Requests due by Oct 30th**

**April 16 - CHS Library Classroom, Tech Requests due by April 9th**

**December 4 - CHS Library Classroom, Tech Requests due by Nov 27th**

**May 7 - CHS Library Classroom, Tech Requests due by April 30th**

**January 8 - CHS Library Classroom, Tech Requests due by Jan 2nd**

**June 4 - Genet Conference Room, Tech Requests due by May 28th**