

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

1. Call to Order – 5:31 p.m.

2. Attendance

Board: Mr. Giordano

Admin: Mr. Edson, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Neumann

Committee: Ms. Bernard, Mr. Ecker, Ms. Duncan, Ms. Farnan, Mr. Kilmartin,
Ms. Mahar, Ms. O’Connell, Mr. Poli, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Virnelli, Ms. Wladarczyk

3. Approval of Minutes

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Poli and seconded by Ms. Virnelli:
Resolved, that the minutes of the last preceding meeting of the Technology
Committee, held January 8, 2018 are hereby approved.
The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Google K-2 Accounts with Clever Update

Mr. Goodwin thanked the Google Champions: Ms. Bernard, Ms. Conyers, Mr. Ecker, Ms. Mahar, and Ms. Virnelli. The Champions act as turnkey trainers and provide assistance in the buildings to create Google Classrooms. Coordination has occurred with the librarians. There is great excitement in the buildings on the project; the accounts have been well received. Sharing is needed along with proper equipment placement. Touchpad use and proficiency continues to improve. Professional development is encouraged.

Mr. Goodwin requested photos of students using the accounts for the website.

5. Chromebook 1:1 Program Update

Citizen Genet - complete

DPS - chromebooks are ready. Some coordination is needed for room preparation.

Red Mill - approximately one-half complete. The Student Council was acknowledged for their assistance in assembling the carts.

Bell Top - not yet begun.

Green Meadow - not yet begun.

Howard L. Goff - all 450 chromebooks are set up. Some cart assembly is still needed.

Columbia - only two carts remain to be assembled.

Mr. Goodwin expressed appreciation to the technology staff and principals for the assistance in this project.

6. Wireless Access Points Installation Project

During the February vacation break, infrastructure installed access points at all buildings. Some difficulty was encountered due to weather conditions and some of the points were at a higher altitude than others. There is a short punch list for the contractor to resolve. Mr. Goodwin was congratulated for his organization of the project.

7. Headphones & Mice Selection

Sample styles of headphones were distributed, including “over-ear”, “on-ear” and “in-ear”. Many students have their own headphones or earbuds. Concerns were raised with regard to breakage, sizing, grade level appropriateness, cleaning and limiting or prohibiting any sharing of earbuds. Also, concerns were shared that each student have equal access to headphones and/or mice, particularly when taking computer based tests. It was noted the District is ready to pilot computer based tests as field tests. Full implementation by SED is approximately two to three years away.

Committee member headphone preference was for “over-ear”. Consensus was reached that headphones should be provided for all elementary students and be consistent throughout the District. For middle school students, headphones or earbuds should be available, but not necessarily purchased for all . (It was noted that these are easy to store in plastic boxes and have on hand for student needs.) For high school students, some headphone sets should be on hand, although it is sensed that most students will have their own.

With regard to mice, consistency was also suggested as it can be difficult for the technicians to troubleshoot equipment purchased at home. Problems were noted with wireless mice due to battery replacement. Cabled or wired mice are easily stored and cords are typically not a problem. Some USB ports may need to be replaced with wired mice due to breakage.

Committee member mice preference was for “USB-cabled”. Consensus was reached that mice should be provided for all elementary students and be consistent throughout the District. For middle school students, wired mice would be available in the event it was difficult for them to use the touchpad. (It was noted that mice are sometimes more effective with drawing assignments.) For high school students, fewer mice would be available as most students become proficient with the touchpad.

8. NearPod Pilot Update

The District has obtained a bank of sixty licenses to start a pilot program. Mr. Goodwin believes the number is sufficient at this time. A two-week trial license is also available to get started this year. Invitations will be sent soon. (Next year district-wide licensing is planned.) Go Guardian software is available to maintain the control of the chromebooks and log student activity. NearPod and Go Guardian are topics for the March 23 professional development day. NearPod training may be repeated at the end of the year. Licenses were requested for summer curriculum writing.

9. March 23 Professional Development (Half-Day)

Sessions available will involve three tracks of learning: blended, flipped, and classic. The sessions will involve NearPod/Go Guardian, Common Sense Media, and Typing Club (through the libraries, a free product). Some staff will be meeting in building safety committees during the professional development time; however, sessions will be repeated in August. Offerings will shortly be up on My Learning Plan for registration.

10. NearPod/Common Sense Media Integration

A sample lesson was shown on digital citizenship related to middle school students, with the topic “Digital Drama”. Committee members acted as students in the lesson to define drama, engaged in remote voting, and viewed a student commentary video on “drama”. Digital citizenship lessons are available free (with the licensing) for all grade levels.

11. Communication From Committee Members

- The Middle School multi-function printing equipment has been ordered from NERIC, who will be placing a resolution on an upcoming Capital Region BOCES Board agenda for approval. The next section of the project will be at the elementary schools
- Thank you for the chromebook carts. The Student Council members liked being part of the project.
- Much progress has been made this year on advancement of technology. The first major technology infusion in the District resulted from a voter proposition in July 1998.
- Information from the technology department will soon be part of an intranet. Mr. Goodwin will send a link to staff, who may then bookmark it for access. The intranet will feature project updates and learning links.
- Discussion ensued about the meeting start time of 5:30 p.m. The timing is to allow community members to attend.

- Discussion ensued about the meeting location. The preference for future meetings is the Citizen Genet conference room, if available.
- There was a recent beneficial field trip to the Tech Valley Center of Gravity by Mr. Ecker. Contact information for the Center was requested.
- Google training is not currently scheduled. Some additional assistance or refresher training was requested. Mr. Goodwin scheduled introductory and refresher sessions this year for clerical staff.

12. Adjournment – 6:57 p.m.