

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 57
Office of the Superintendent
Waterboro, Maine 04087

PR/Technology Committee Meeting

September 21, 2021

6:00 PM

MHS East Training Center

Committee Members:

Maggie Boemmels
Jodi Laine

JoJo Dryden

Jennifer Mayo

Administrators:

Adam Goad
Larry Malone

Angela Madigan
Stephen Marquis

Kevin Perkins

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

B. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

Quorum was established.

C. Election of Committee Chair

JoJo nominates Maggie Boemmels, Jenn Mayo seconds.
No discussion, 3 in favor, no opposition, 1 abstention

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda.

E. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2021 meeting

Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2021 meeting

Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2021 meeting

Jenn Mayo makes the motion to accept the minutes from all three meetings,
Maggie Boemmels seconds.

No discussion, 4 in favor, no opposition or abstention

F. Old Business

1. SIS / LMS Review Update

Kevin Perkins shares that he and Dr. Marquis are developing a timeline.
Representative group met and heard presentations from three platforms.
The group determined that Infinite Campus has not brought forth updated
changes to support current needs. Synergy and Powerschool are being

compared and discussed to determine what is best for our district's needs. We are working to restructure the use of Synergy, Kevin Perkins provides several examples. In the coming months we will need to make a final choice. Maggie Boemmels asks why the change was pursued, Kevin Perkins responds that there were concerns regarding ease of use and staff members had past experiences with other platforms. Larry Malone adds that this was also the end of our contract of five years with Synergy, which warrants a discussion around whether or not we extend the contract. Dr. Marquis adds the process the administrative team is taking to find more information. Discussion around training for either platform, both have training suites.

2. Mobile Hotspots / Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) Application
Kevin Perkins reminds the group of the past plan that we had with TMobile, which is still ongoing and being managed. There are 40 currently out and being used out of the 250. This application can be used for hardware and connectivity services, which can be used through June, 2022. It is clarified that this means the funding does not come out of the school budget. The next step is to provide each school with a small pool of devices to give to families in need. Maggie Boemmels asks about how the message is being shared with the families without technology. Ideas include flyers at local establishments (food pantries, town offices, libraries), connections with the new homeless liaison, thrillshare, newsletters, an informational flyer home with students needing to be remote, etc. We entered the first stage of the grant process, so we should hear soon. It is anticipated that the family does not need to pick up the cost of this service in the future. We would like to collect them in June to reallocate each year.

G. New Business

1. PR / Technology 2021/2022 Goals

Connecting with Alumni & Celebrating Students: Adam Goad shares that he would like to find ideas to announce and celebrate accomplishments as well as keep in touch with alumni and tell their stories. Local publications and social media are ideas for mediums. Highlight alumni and current students for all reasons, e.g., SMTC, mentorship programs, etc. to include all learners in all experiences. We do not currently have an alumni committee established. One goal might be to get in touch with some alumni to get some stories to share, perhaps the student representatives on the Board could begin this process. Sharing the student report digitally via RSU 57 Facebook page is discussed. Using Thrillshare to capture students in all environments is another idea. Will continue discussion at the next meeting with the goal to establish outcomes and decide on some actions that can be addressed immediately.

Branding: When people hear Massabesic, what do they think about? What do they see? What message do we want to send? What is Mustang Nation? How do we get that word out? We need to be sure there is something unique and special for all students to engage them in school and support our educators in that journey. Ideas are shared for how we can do this, e.g., recognizing staff, fun community building activities, etc. For later conversation: what can we as a Board do to make this happen, what ideas can we implement, how can we fund these ideas? Who will be the group to plan out and implement these activities and ideas? Mr. Malone advises the group to have a higher perspective and consider the goals and overarching outcomes and provide these to a group who will then come up with activities and work with schools to implement and fund them.

2. Public Relations

See New Business #1

3. Technology

a) Summer Work Report

Kevin Perkins reports that devices were accounted for over the summer and the devices not returned were at a rate of less than 1%, some of which are being returned now. Cleaning practices were completed on all devices.

They changed middle school to all Chromebooks. We now own the network in all schools, which was switched over this summer. There was updating to Synergy in the standards PK-12, and new ways to complete scoring.

b) Device Distribution Report

Kevin Perkins reports that new cases were ordered for iPads. The new ones are tighter with a screen protector. The new cases were not ready for all grades on the first day of school, so grades 4-12 were set up on day 1, but grades K-3 devices rolled out within the next couple of weeks. At this point, there have been no issues noted. For PK there will be 2 devices per classroom, but have devices available for those who need it for remote learning due to isolation or quarantine. We are working on the possibility of refurbishing past devices to go home to PK families.

H. Other

Jodi Laine mentions that there are policies from a past meeting that were tabled to a future meeting date. Kevin Perkins shares that these policies came from a training session, but it was determined that this committee was not the appropriate one to address this matter.

I. Next Meeting – October 19, 2021

J. Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.