ED TECH COMMITTEE REPORT – JUNE 2020

The Ed Tech Committee Purpose

The Ed Tech Committee was delegated by the Superintendent with the responsibility to review current educational technology systems and devices leveraged by the district. The committee was also tasked with assessing the variety of learning systems and devices that exist beyond our current use. Finally, the committee was to compare what is widely available with resources currently in use and make recommendations for the 2020-21 school year.

Considerable consideration was given to the current COVID-19 pandemic and how these resources might affect the various transition methods under review for the start of 2020-21 school year.

Ed Tech Committee Members

- Timothy Willis, Director of Technology
- Shestine Gesbocker, Principal, Wharton 5th Grade Center
- Jeff Moore, Academic Advisor, Walsh Elementary
- Scott Forman, AD/Dean, Heritage Middle School
- Amanda Deaton, Principal, Walker Elementary School
- Kevin Pacheco, School Board Member
- Yesenia Kelly, Dual Language Facilitator
- Bridget Soukup, 8th Grade Social Studies, Heritage Middle School
- Natalie Manske, 7th Grade Math, Heritage Middle School
- Nichole Zipprich, 6th Grade Science, Heritage Middle School
- Monica Cardenas, 6th Grade LBS, Heritage Middle School
- Jamie Kirscher, 5th Grade Teacher, Wharton 5th Grade Center
- Megan Mann, Kindergarten Teacher, Walsh Elementary School
- Heather Smith, LBS, Walsh Elementary School
- Rachel Marroquin, STEAM Teacher, Walsh Elementary School
- Kate Herrera, Kindergarten, Walker Elementary School
- Paul Karlovics, STEAM Teacher, Walker Elementary School
- Jose Ortiz, 3rd Grade Teacher, Graves Elementary School
- Allysa James, PreK Teacher, Graves Elementary School

The Ed Tech Committee held 5 meetings in May 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

Review of Current Resources and Policy

- The district has a current license agreement with Schoology, Inc as our Learning Management System (LMS) provider in 2019-20. Schoology is provided to grades K-8.
- The district has a 1:1 student/device ratio in grades 2-8. The district has partnered with Acer and is currently leveraging Chromebooks in these grade levels.
- The district has 2:1 student/device ration in grades PreK-1. Apple iPads are the device primarily in use in these grades. These devices are the oldest in district and are not scheduled for replacement until Summer 2021 and Summer 2022.
- The district does not have a take home policy. Students are provided an assigned device once they reach 5th grade, but the device does not leave district buildings.
- Device damage costs are charged to the student/family at part cost. The district does not charge for labor. The district also does not charge for natural part failure. This is outlined in the student handbook.
- Teacher PD on device/system platforms is typically delivered via on premise institute days or via electronic delivery (YouTube/webinar)
- Parent/Community PD on system platforms is delivered ad hoc and most often by the teacher.

Recommendations For The 2020-21 School Year

- Continue with Schoology as our LMS provider for grades 6-8. Schoology provides for a more advanced tool set that is needed for these students and well received by teachers.

- Implement Seesaw for grades PreK-5. Seesaw provides a simpler user interface that is more useful for our younger students. Several committee members have used the platform as teachers/parents and find it simple, yet effective.

- Licensing costs for Schoology will drop to $4,109 ($7.21/student), a reduction of approximately $9,000. Licensing cost for Seesaw come in at $6,008.75 ($5.23/student). This provides for a net savings of $3,000 in LMS licensing.

- Staff PD opportunities for Summer 2020 will be communicated via representatives from each school. Emails will be sent bi-monthly highlighting current web training offerings for their respective LMS platforms.

- Staff PD opportunities will be expanded near the start of school based on the framework developed by the transition committees.

- Accelerate all remaining 1:1 device rotation procurement (K/1) to Summer 2020 via CARES Act funds. This will provide for updated device access to ALL our students. This will be especially needed if we find that we are unable to return to school in the fall.

- Touch enabled Chromebooks will be provided to all 1st grade students. Apple iPads will be provided to PreK and Kindergarten students.

- Initiate take home policy for all students. This will provide for extended access during the current pandemic, but also provide teachers the capacity to extend the classroom beyond the school day. This will have us ready to deal with "Act of God" circumstances and aide in compliance with the state's E-Learning mandates. Language will be added to the student handbook to reflect take home policies and procedures.

- Provide parents with an option for device insurance. Each year, parents can pay $25 per student (max $50) and the district will cover instances of damage. A single touchscreen costs $120. This will provide the parents with peace of mind in instances of damage and provide the district with a financial pool for which to leverage repair parts.

Cost Breakdown	
Schoology, Inc. (Grades 6-8)	$4,109.70
Seesaw (Grades (PreK-5)	$6,008.75
Chromebooks (1st Grade)	$51,721.25
iPads (PreK and K)	$62,790 iPads/$6,297.90 cases/$69,087.90 Total
Chromebook Sleeves (Grades 1-4)	$8,204.00