

Parents Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2022

Staff Present: Dr Norm Miller, Dr. Erika Willis, Mrs. Sarah Box, Mr. Matthew Sinopoli, Mr. Jim Chronister and Mrs. Shannon Leib

PAC Coordinator: Mrs. Jackie Pendrak

School Board Members: Ms. Beth Sviben

School Represented: East High, CD Middle, East Middle, E.H. Phillips, North Side, Paxtang, Paxtonia, Tri-Community and West Hanover.

Technology Presentation

Mr. Matthew Sinopoli and Jim Chronister presented an overview of the current state of technology and where the District is headed in the future. A copy of the presentation was emailed to all PAC members.

A positive from the Pandemic is that the District was able to purchase technological devices and expand our online learning platforms.

Technology Department recently surveyed (Bright Bytes) students and teachers regarding the current state of technology in the classroom and about student device usage.

We are currently a 1:1 at the high school level, meaning we have enough devices in the District to provide each high school student with a device.

Students reporting that most of the time they remember to bring it to class. Devices are primarily used in Social Studies, Science and ELA classes. Students use them for research projects and completing quizzes and tests.

Students can safely connect through district Wi-Fi using Go Guardian which allows teachers to safely teach and monitor student activity. Students are not permitted to use their cellular service.

Other technology project conducted were a projector refresh at secondary schools.

Some of the other educational platforms currently used by teachers are Camtasia Studio for screen casting work; Nearpod, which is an interactive presentation tool; Canvas and Google Classroom, which are learning management systems. Canvas is primarily used at the secondary level and google classroom at the elementary level. In the future, the plan is to completely migrate to CANVAS at both levels.

Teachers are continuing with professional development to learn how to integrate more technology into the classroom. The goal is not to replace traditional teaching methods with technology, more as a supplementation piece.

The District currently has Technology Facilitators which are our teachers that are well versed in technology and 9 Technology Integrators which are employed as part of the District IT Team.

We are currently on Digital Cohort 4 of teachers that receive voluntary training in blended classroom learning in exchange for technological devices for their classrooms.

The 1:1 technology will eventually be incorporated into the middle schools as budgetary conditions dictate. We want the model to be sustainable due to the frequent need to replace outdated devices.

After the middle schools, elementary schools will be brought into the fold.

COVID-19 and the CDS Health & Safety Plan:

Mrs. Sarah Box, Director of Pupil Services provided an update to the amended health and safety plan and District masking changes.

At the February 7, 2022, School Board Meeting, the board members voted to amend the Health & Safety Plan to make masking recommended but not mandated.

At the February 28th meeting, the board voted to lift the masking mandates on school buses. This change was made due to guidance received from the CDC.

Additionally, the District would no longer be conducting Contact Tracing of Staff and Students. However, the District will keep a record of COVID-19 cases and track them via the district website and provide a weekly daily count of cases.

Parental letters will be sent notifying families of cases in the classroom, but there will be no close contact or proximity letters sent.

It is important to track cases because most of the COVID-19 cases were seen from community cohorts (play dates, sports teams). A building or classroom could still go remote if case counts necessitate.

All other mitigation efforts and practices are still being conducted district-wide (cleaning and sanitizing, encouraging frequent handwashing, avoiding large gatherings, social distancing during lunches), no assemblies and limited visitation by the public to the buildings.

We have seen a significant decrease in COVID-19 cases district wide which is mirroring our community and county counts.

We will continue to follow guidance from the Pa Department of Health (DOH), PA Department of Public Education (PDE), PA School Boards Association (PSBA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) at the federal level.