

Technology Committee Meeting

January 10, 2018 • 3:30 PM
Manteno High School Lab N23

Minutes

In attendance: Kevin Crosby, Brent Zhorne, Kristi Van Zeyl, Gale Dodge, Matthew Glenn, Roger Schnitzler, Cathy Creek, Nate Short, Chris Bohula, Jake Emerson, Stephanie Kaack, Tom Steele

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm

- 1) Tech Dept updates
 - a. E-rate - the 2018 E-rate filing window opens at 11:00AM tomorrow. We will file 2 applications for high-speed broadband Internet, an application for DO Internet, one for Infrastructure Maintenance and one for the firewall. We anticipate receiving about \$40,000 from E-rate this cycle.
 - b. Winter Break Projects - our only major project was re-wiring MS IDF 1/2. We accomplished without issue.
 - c. Donated Computers - State Farm donated 75 HP EliteDesk computers that were about 2 ½ years old. These are intended to replace several of the Bytespeed 2010 still in use in classrooms. They will be available by request on a first-come basis.
- 2) Adobe Flash problems
 - a. Adobe announced July 28, 2017 the retirement of Flash at the end of 2020 and encouraged developers to migrate to other formats.
 - b. Google and Microsoft have been taking measures to cripple Flash and make it more difficult to use
 - c. By July 2018 Chrome (Chrome 68) will require explicit permission to run every time a user starts the browser and by July 2019 (Chrome 76) Flash will be disabled by default
 - d. Many educational apps still require Flash to run, including Read 180 and Reading Counts. These will become more difficult to use and to make work as time goes on. A December 5 press release from HMH states that they are working on migrating those systems to HTML5 but no date has been announced for the release.
 - e. The Tech Department strongly recommends finding replacements and abandoning any platform that uses Flash and is not working at migrating to HTML5.
 - i. Nate asked if we can put in newsletters/ask teachers to start making a list of sites they are aware of using Flash
 - ii. Roger asked how will staff know if the site/program uses Flash?
 1. Chris said they can usually right click the video or program and if it says “About Flash” then it is using Flash
 2. Tom mentioned that a lot of flash is embedded in the website so we may not know some sites use it until it stops working
 - iii. Cathy asked if we could provide a list of known sites
- 3) SchoolMessenger Website Demo
 - a. Tom and Stephanie have looked at 4 different website providers. Out of the four, they liked SchoolMessenger’s the best.
 - b. Jeremy from SchoolMessenger did a demo of the platform.

- c. District currently uses SchoolMessenger's Communications product
 - i. Integrates with Skyward - already syncing data
 - ii. Can keep parent control over the data through Skylert
- d. Has Google Single Sign-On - staff will sign into the website using their PantherNation accounts
- e. Has an Intranet - internal network for staff. Would relocate items such as webposts, which gives more organization to the items
- f. Can set pages to go live/expire on specific dates
- g. In-line editing
 - i. Currently we have several steps to edit a page, and have to click out of the editing area to go back to the live site to even see what it looks like. In-line editing allows you to make changes and see exactly how it's going to look before going live.
 - ii. Site is also very flexible and easy to move different items on the page (drag/drop features)
- h. Can pull all the district Facebook feeds into one feed on the website/app - could also do all Twitter feeds into one feed
- i. Has the capability of having classes, similar to the "Remind" service - class rosters could automatically be synced with Skyward (when a student is added/removed the roster automatically updates)
- j. Website Reliability
 - i. 3 data centers
 - ii. 13 content distribution networks
 - iii. Guarantees 99.9% uptime. There is also a clause in the contract that states if they don't meet that uptime, we get a percentage of the cost back.
 - iv. Have installed new firewalls and server hardware to combat any DOS attacks
- k. After 3 years, SchoolMessenger will redesign the websites for no charge
- l. Has built in "ADA Compliance" checks
- m. Designs
 - i. [Template Library](#)
 - ii. [Teacher Themes](#) - Teachers can have total control over their page - change themes as often as they want
- n. Custom App
 - i. Parents will use the app more than browser/website
 - ii. Push notifications
 - iii. Available for both Apple and Android
 - iv. Parents can select which buildings/feeds/calendars they want to show
 - v. App Overview - <https://vimeo.com/103368463>
 - vi. [App Designs](#)
- o. Billing
 - i. Original quote was slightly lower than what we are currently paying for School-in-Sites
 - ii. It would be cheaper to do the "Triple Play" bundle, which would include the custom app, website, and Communications (Skylert)
 - 1. If we decide we don't like the app, we can cancel that after the first year, and the cost of the website wouldn't be affected.
 - 2. Can receive a 10% discount if we pre-pay for a 3 year contract

- p. Brent Zhorne made a motion to move forward with SchoolMessenger's proposal. Kevin Crosby seconded. Motion carried.
- 4) Building updates
- a. Elementary School - nothing to report
 - b. Middle School
 - i. PARCC preparation
 - 1. Nate asked if there was anything they need to be looking to do do prior to testing. Tom said he is not aware of anything new at this time.
 - 2. We can expect an update to the TestNav app as it gets closer to testing, but nothing has been released yet.
 - 3. Since we are not testing as soon as the window opens, we anticipate many of the issues will be worked out by the time we start.
 - c. High School -
 - i. Copiers in the two workrooms seem to be having several problems with multiple service calls. Tom/Stephanie will take a look at service call records with Proven
 - ii. Roger would like to have a Skyward Gradebook troubleshooting session for HS staff
- 5) Adjournment
- a. Brent Zhorne made a motion to adjourn. Nate Short seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.