

**Technology Advisory Committee**  
**December 14, 2020**  
**Meeting Notes**

1. **Call to Order** – Beth Anne Carr, TAC Chair - This is an informal meeting as we did not have enough of a quorum to attend in person for a formal meeting.

2. **Business before the Committee**

- a. **Dark Fiber/WAN project update (Vince Vinueza)** – Site surveys are done. We are getting to the permitting phase where the carrier can bring in the fiber from the streets into the classrooms. This spring we will be migrating schools over to this faster connectivity. Goal is to complete by next summer. Everything is on target.

Background: Three years ago, we started an initiative where the schools and our sites are connected by cabling that is supported by AT&T (WAN) for a fee. The program is supported by e-Rate. Four years ago, the FCC allowed for Dark Fiber where the school district will own the cabling, for a cost, but can go up to higher speeds because you are paying for carrying and connecting the cabling, but not the bandwidth.

How does this project tie into the problems we are having with TEAMS? The problems we are having with TEAMS is not always a bandwidth issue. Problems could be because of MS issues or saturation issues where the student(s) lives.

This project will help with the Internet connectivity in our building providing much faster bandwidth speeds.

LAN – Local Area Network – within the campus itself  
WAN – Wide Area Network – what connects the campuses

- b. **IT Service Management (Matthew Bradford)** – Over the next year we are looking to standardize our policy and procedures as to how we are helping our users, obtain a new incident management ticketing system, and determine how we will utilize the data to direct the department. Will have more processes and procedures than what the department has had before.

How is it going with the IT Help Desk with teachers calling in? Have teachers been using it?

We have been maturing in our processes with the Support Desk. Protocol is for teachers to contact the school's micro tech and then the micro tech will contact the IT Help Desk.

- c. **Polycom Studio USB Video Bar (Maximo Rosario)**  
All cameras have been deployed to the secondary schools. Additional training and support is being given to teachers through weekly webinars. To view videos on the use of the cameras in the classroom go to [browardschools.com/Page/57040](http://browardschools.com/Page/57040).

ESE and self-contained classrooms will be amongst those receiving cameras. It is up to the teacher as to whether they want to use the camera in their classroom.

The device is plug and play and very easy for teachers to

- d. Canvas/TEAMS platform update (Daryl Diamond/Vincent Vinueza)  
End of first semester might be changed to January 12<sup>th</sup> and this end date will be made in Canvas. The Board needs to agree to that tomorrow. We are currently in Ring 4 in TEAMS out of the unstable early release ring. This will bring us more stability and reliability.

What are we doing with Microsoft to ensure that the issues with TEAMS are solved? Academics and IT meet with Microsoft weekly. We are setting up a chatbot for teachers to be able to access to solve issues immediately. We are tightening up our communication to report issues with TEAMS and other products. We are also working on delivering professional development to help teachers learn how to use TEAMS and other technologies more effectively.

Immersive reader works in some places in Canvas but not in all.

- e. Virtual Desk Infrastructure for CTACE (Tamicka McKay)– moved to next month
- f. Board items for December/January (Harmoni Clealand)
  - i. 1-year contract extension for security cameras
  - ii. Structured cabling and enterprise networking – new contract
  - iii. Telecommunications BID – responsible for our landlines
  - iv. Cellular contract – hotspots and cellular items
  - v. Managed print services renewal – extend for a year and then we may go to BID to replace
  - vi. Continue utilizing our ticketing service
  - vii. Emergency management system – processing an amendment
  - viii. School Choice management solution – Request for Proposal
  - ix. January – ask for additional spending authority for the Apple contract from money that came from the CARES Act. Aspire – the cloud benefit solution for the Benefit department.
  - x. Microsoft invitation to BID will be coming in the future.
  - xi. Student Information System – Under the cone of silence. Looking for a consultant who will help us identify a new SIS.
  - xii. Question on the Lexmark printing item – the contract does expire in February 2021. This would be the first of two possible renewals.
- g. Sub-Committee Considerations
  - i. TAC Chair/Vice Chair Nominations Sub-Committee (Dale/Beth Anne)  
  
This is upcoming nominations for next year's elections. We will be looking for a new chair because Beth Anne cannot serve for more than 2 years. If you would consider being on the nominating committee let Beth Anne know. We need 3 people.
  - ii. SIS Sub-committee (Jeff Stanley) – taking the next step to replacing TERMS.  
Once we get a successful bidder coming out of the meeting this week, we will

get a consultant to help us identify a better SIS. Anyone on TAC interested in working on this sub-committee contact Jeff Stanley.

Next meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourn