

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2010

Call to Order

The Special Committee of the Whole meeting of the Shoreline Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Darlene Sherrick Room of the Administrative Offices at the Shoreline Center by President David Wilson on April 26, 2010.

Roll Call

Present: David Wilson, President; Mike Jacobs, Member; Dick Potter, Member; and Debi Ehrlichman, Member.

Absent: Maren Norton, Member

The following item was discussed:

Technology Planning for the Future

Jim Golubich, Director of Instructional Technology, presented.

On-line surveys have been made available to parents, teachers and students. As of April 26th responses had been received from 450 students, 7th – 12th grade, 115 staff, and 755 parents. Common themes included:

- Hardware issues - age and condition of laptops
- Management issues - inappropriate usage in class and at home
- Lack of consistent usage in all classrooms
- Great resource – helps with organization, more creative assignments
- Too heavy to carry
- Equity for all students crucial

Opinions on laptop access differ between schools having control (cart model) and students needing constant 1:1 access.

A lengthy discussion ensued among Board Members, Mr. Golubich, and Superintendent Walker. Some of the concerns and questions considered included:

- Surveys at this time show responders are generally supportive of the laptop program. Other options to be considered were raised at the last Committee of the Whole meeting on April 12, 2010. In replacing worn laptops, it is not clear that the netbook is the way to proceed and the iPad is too new to be a viable alternative.
- The survey seems to indicate that more students have computer and internet access at their homes now than when this project first started. In fact, 96% of parents from the survey indicated that they have access at home and 89% of the students indicated access at home.

Q. If current computers are put on carts would there be enough carts to spread amongst the four secondary schools for the next year?

A. There are approximately 3200 laptops at the buildings and that is enough to accommodate all classrooms that want access to a cart. The MacBooks will be in their fifth year and the cart environment may help extend the life of the laptops. Available inventory would stock 100 carts which is more than needed – fewer carts can make some laptops available for students who have limited or no home access.

Q. Could mobile carts be placed in the classrooms where needed and can the District purchase new computers in two or three years at smaller increments each year so that we are not committed all at once?

A. Spreading purchases over time helps with establishing a replacement cycle, but poses a possible risk of incompatible operating systems or software versions. There would need to be substantial training to help teachers and students navigate these differences if they surface.

Q. Could we put everyone at the same software level when the laptops are turned in at the end of the year?

A. *There are potential licensing and warranty issues on maintaining consistent software versions. Laptops have been collected early over the past two years because of the warranty ending dates.*

- One Board Member expressed the opinion that they were not totally convinced that every student needs a District laptop 24/7. Many have computers available to them at home. Equity is important and students who don't have access to a computer at home should be provided with one during the school year.

Q. Parents/students have complained about staff not using iCal or the website for assignment and grade postings on a regular basis. It would be nice to have just one system and equity amongst the schools. Data Dashboard is the one that the District prefers to use. With Apple, are we locked into using only their standards when students may have other software at home?

A. This can happen, but doesn't need to be the case. Example - Keynote is an Apple platform, but teachers need to be trained how not to specify a specific tool but to allow students to create similar products on a variety of available tools (PowerPoint accomplishes same thing as Keynote).

- The network is accessible to everyone. Opening code to access the network would allow people from outside the district to access our server from the parking lot. This causes a serious security issue. Platforms are specific to Macs and PCs. The cost comes into play with the servers and staff to support the servers and staff development with multiple platforms.

Q. The students use their own tools such as iPhone, laptops, etc. and bring them to class. The student has complete administrative access on their own computer and the District would not have access to any of their e-mails that might be sent to a staff member that is inappropriate. Is it possible for the District to have control over what and where they are accessing and doing their work on personal equipment?

A. Students sending e-mails and such from their iPhones and iPads etc. cannot be tracked at this time. In-district e-mails that are sent contain stamp information, making it easier to track. When students use off-district network with their own devices, the police then have to become involved and get search warrants to try and track the e-mail origin.

Q. What are surrounding districts doing regarding technology?

A. They are moving at a slow and cautious pace with netbooks at specific grade levels and specific programs within high schools using 1:1. No local district has reached the scale of laptop deployment found in Shoreline.

Q. Is there an option to purchase Apple computers for individual students or a leasing plan for parents? This would enable the students to keep the laptops at home and use the one provided from the cart in the classrooms.

A. Mr. Golubich will inquire.

Concluding Thoughts:

- With the passage of the technology levy, we should explore what other technology is possible rather than just assuming that the current model is the only option.

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- Mr. Golubich will look into the lease or purchase options for parents and students to buy direct. He will also try to determine how many secondary classrooms need laptops in rooms 24/7 and/or by carts.
- If the Board is not able to reach a decision on the technology option at the May 3 meeting, they could possibly vote at the May 10 Committee of the Whole (which will have action items).
- The District needs some clear ways to measure the progress using technology. Would like to see some sort of matrix for tracking purposes to define the criteria to enable looking at the success of the technology usage. However, this would be a difficult task to pursue.
- One Board Member suggested having carts at the middle school level and run a pilot at the high schools to see what works with carts versus 24/7 use of laptops. Another would be open to having one laptop model (carts vs. 1:1) at the middle schools and one at the high schools but does not believe we should propose different models between the two high schools. Access to technology should be uniform throughout the District.
- The last survey information will come in on Friday, April 30 by 5:00 p.m. and Mr. Golubich will get the information to the Board over the weekend before Monday's Board meeting.

Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

David Wilson, President

Attest: May 17, 2010

Sue Walker, Secretary
Shoreline Board of Directors

All documents referenced in the minutes may be viewed in the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours.