# Board of Education Technology Subcommittee Newtown, Connecticut Wed, Mar 29, 2012 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of meeting in the Board offices at 3 Primrose Street.

Present: K. Alexander, Chair C. Amodeo

R. Gaines J. Robinson

L. Gejda

### Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Item 2 - Public Participation - none

### <u>Item 3 – New Business</u>

## a. Review of work from District Technology Committee

The Education Technology Plan, written by DTC, has been sent to Education Connection for validation. The Plan needs BOE approval before 6/15 when it is due at the State.

Smarter Balanced Assessment – in 2015 we need to have access to equipment for the computerized testing for 3-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. There will be a window of several weeks to get the tests completed. This year ~450 students at middle school did computerized assessments. Reed also did one grade level. We need to figure out how to have enough terminals of sufficient capabilities for these tests. These computers be tied up for other uses when the tests are given. Perhaps the grade levels could be split so that half a grade takes the test at one time. There will probably be a large enough testing window to do that. Mr. Gaines asked for an inventory listing of needs based on at least what we time information we have about the existing assessments.

There is also the question of students needing to have sufficient keyboarding skills. The district purchased elementary school home typing for grades 2-6. They need these skills for the writing assessments (when given on computer). State discussion of BYOD is that the tests might not work equitably on the smaller that people often bring.

Discussion on a Policy for a certain percentage of budget being set aside for technology. Instead we could have a Policy that we are on a within 7 years of current requirement. We need to figure out what access students have to the computer labs. We need to expand the afterschool hours for computer access. At this time, we are not sure that there is guaranteed computer lab time available outside school hours at elementary schools.

When assignments require computer resources, it may come down to individual teachers making sure that each student has access.

Edmodo is Educational Social Networking. Discussion of how we manage teachers using outside tools.

Reminder that teachers need to keep websites update in a timely fashion, particularly homework.

Bring Your Own Device program status: BYOD document for Middle School pilot complete. Pilot will be in Computer Class in April or May, possibly try some test clusters by end-of-year. May be across whole school next year. High School may go as well.

Student email status: Hawley, rolling out. Reed not quite ready. Middlegate almost ready. Middle school should be rolling out soon. At High School, some students didn't want to participate because they already have addresses.

## b. <u>Discussion of upcoming work</u>

Professional Development. Technology survey shows what level of training staff needs. Look into teacher to teacher networking. The grade 9-12 piece of technology curriculum still needs work.

When will technology be a skill rather than a subject? We still need to teach them or at least expose them so they will know what to look into.

### <u>Item 4 – Adjournment</u>

MOTION: Mr. Gaines moved to adjourn. Mr. Alexander seconded. Vote: 2 ayes The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Res	pectfully submitted:	
	Keith Alexander	
	Chair	