

NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION
Office of the Superintendent
New Carlisle, IN 46552

MINUTES

WORKSESSION
March 19, 2013

A worksession was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in the LGI Room at New Prairie Middle School with Dale Groves, Bernie Baltes and Phil King present. Rich Shail and Al Williamson were absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Mr. Dermody stated that the NPUSC is proposing individual technology devices for students.

- Mr. Dermody reviewed the Board's Educational Goals. The goal of the NPUSC is to enhance student educational processes which support this initiative and would result in each student having their own technology device.
- Digital innovation is always evolving. There were three school corporations that developed technology in the classrooms three years ago. There are now over 80 school corporations that have introduced this concept within the last three years.
- When you adopt this type of proposal, it is not an enhancement. It does not improve education – it transforms. It changes the role from the provider of knowledge to a facilitator of learning.
- An internal audit was recently performed by 5-Star focusing on the examinations of our technology and the level of infrastructure and instruction. The NPUSC has a solid infrastructure with 70% of our students already using a technology device. Elementary schools were utilizing the technology at a higher and more consistent level for instruction.
- The Short Term Goals are:
 - Deployment Preparation
 - Infrastructure Upgrade
 - Acquisition of Device
 - iPad, Macbooks, or Netbooks
 - Support and Maintenance
 - Professional Development
 - Parental Community Partnerships
 - Financing Structure

- The Long Term Goals are:
 - Year 2 to Deploy Grades 6-12
 - Depending on device choice
 - Cost Feasibility
 - Alternative Deployment Plans
 - Year 2 – Deploy Grades 6-8
 - Year 3 – Deploy Grades 9-12
- Financing Implementation

Mark Norton reviewed the cost comparison between a tablet and laptop as follows:

- iPad \$499.00 per unit (\$882,265 total for 6 grade levels)
- MacBook \$929.00 per unit (\$1,458,310 total for 6 grade levels)
- Lenovo \$993.99 per unit (\$1,709,297.45 total for 6 grade levels)

- The reason we are considering the Apple devices:
 - Existing interface and platform is currently being utilized in our school labs
 - Training our staff and students would be more streamlined
 - iBook authoring for digital content will be more financially sustainable in regards to textbook fees
 - Digital curriculum is more cost effective
 - Countless number of innovate apps are available
 - Geared for educational market
- The NPUSC will have to consider whether to lease or purchase the devices.
- The NPUSC will also consider the insurance on the devices as well as technology fees. We can charge a technology fee and the student can own that site license. Textbook fees are calculated on a six year period. We do not want to double charge. We cannot mandate insurance, but we can offer insurance. We have a large number of poverty level families. The device would work the same as the Free/Reduced textbook fees with the exception of the insurance.
- The Implementation Logistics are:
 - Active parent communication
 - Device availability for home use
 - Preparing students for Digital Citizenship
 - Make-up assignments for absent students
 - Home filtering system

The students will not take the devices home at first. The corporation needs to prepare students for the use of the equipment. We will need to research a filtering system in the event students access the web. There will also be a method established for make-up assignments. Hard back books would be available for those circumstances.

- Developing Acceptable Use Policies:
 - Care and usage expectations
 - Consequences for misuse
 - Textbook & Technology fees
 - Accidental and intentional damage
 - Outlining prohibited uses
 - Violation of Copyrights or Software
 - Plagiarism
 - Use for non-school related items
 - Misuse of passwords/access
 - Vandalism
 - Using school filters
 - Unauthorized downloads
 - Student information security

Dale Groves asked how we would monitor these policies. Carrie Cannon indicated that we will be working with administration to oversee this. If we provide additional training to the students, these issues could decrease. These policies are still in a draft mode.

- Staff Curricular Expectations:
 - Shift from provider of knowledge to facilitator of learning
 - Deliver lessons that model 21st Century Learning
 - Staff utilization of digital content/digital curriculum
 - Future digital curricular adoption
 - Professional Development will be implemented and utilized throughout the classroom
 - Elementary grades year 2013-2014 continue to use textbooks except Reading
 - Middle and High School to continue to use textbooks until digital implementation
- Student Curriculum Expectations
 - Self directed instruction
 - Cooperative and collaborative learning
 - Differentiated learning – students learn at own pace
 - Access to Digital Online assistance

- Mr. Dermody stated that the current recommendation is the implementation at the elementary levels. Due to the success on the 2011-2012 IRead3 assessment, the NPUSC is able to reallocate funds for technology. We would then migrate technology to the student as they move on through the system. This will be a transitional operation. This will be achieved in a financially responsible manner. At this time, we do not believe it is in the best interest of the corporation to purchase the textbooks for the next six years.
- The next steps are:
 - Continued research
 - School visits
 - Digital standardized testing
 - Student, staff, student and community input
- Board and Community Comments:

Dale Groves listed the following comments:

- Would we allow students to use their own device?
- Quality and on-going professional development
- Opportunity to save money
- Having students email their homework – Good idea
- Device would be more than a textbook on line
- Will additional staff be necessary?
- Insurance
- How will we police and supervise?
- What happens if a student loses their privilege to use the device?
- What if there is no Wi-Fi at home?

Mr. Dermody stated that we are still working out many of these questions. This will not be an easy or comfortable transition for some people. The NPUSC has achieved at a high level, but we must recognize that our learners are different because of technology. We cannot ignore that fact. This initiative is an addition to what we are doing for our students, but these devices will take the place of textbooks in the future.

- Additional comments from patrons:
 - A teacher stated that after serving on the textbook committee, she can see how quickly student's questions can be accessed. Students are not just flipping pages. They are engaged.
 - If devices do not go home, how does the student access their notes, etc.
 - Concern with Wi-Fi hot spots
 - Excited the NPUSC is working on this initiative.
 - Bernie Baltus would like to be sure we get the information to the community.
 - How many systems are you going to employ?
 - Exciting, but disappointed the HS/MS students will have to wait.