

ACE Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the Advisory Council for Education is to provide a systematic representative public involvement in educational decisions under consideration by the Board of Directors.

April 21, 2022
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Sarah Blake, Judy Fay, Kerri Helgeson, Stacy Jacobs, Britt Kleinman, Erica Knapp, Mary Levesque, Karrie Marsh, Anne McAlvey, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Sophie Willis

Guests Present

Mark Ehrhardt

Call to Order

6:01 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Chrys Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mary Levesque, to approve the March 7 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Technology Update

Mark Ehrhardt, Director of Technology, provided a technology update to the ACE members. He showed a roster of the tech staff. Here is what technology does for the district:

- We hire good people that help our staff to use tech tools to do good work
- Find solutions that support students and teachers in the most effective, frugal and supportive ways possible.
- Provide a safe, and secure online environment for students that serves their educational needs
- We support the business practices of the district
- We provide support for a wide range of technology systems - phones, intercomms, security cameras, chromebooks, networks, laptops and desktops, wifi, hotspots, digital displays, sonitrol security, district fiber optic network, and more...

2019-24 Tech Plan

- Chromebook catchup - next slide
- Teacher adoption of technology and training - over 150 teachers achieved Google certification during COVID

- Standards - CORE 4 adopted during remote COVID period

Technology Projects

- Chromebook for every student in the school district - all added or refreshed in the past 2-3 years through leveraging CARES funds, ESSER funds, and Emergency Connectivity Funds
- Currently deploying 300 Macbook laptops to staff replacing 10-year-old laptops. Funded partially through Emergency Connectivity Funds
- About 400 wireless antennas covering all the instructional areas and most recently, the stadium area at AHS
- We own most of our fiber optic network connecting every site except WHS and Transportation

Upcoming Items

- Increasing Cybersecurity - LastPass password manager for district staff, protecting computers and other devices from viruses, malware, etc..., Multi-factor authentication, - driven by insurance requirements.
- Sustainable plan for financing and replacing technology
- Moving more and more services to the Cloud
- Where are we Post - Covid? Do we need the same software? What do we keep and what do we drop?

NeoBots Robotics Update

Mark also provided an update on Robotics. He shared the following videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjllSbARc20>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0jEa8Bz-tY>

It started in 2008 in Arlington.

Teams

- FIRST Lego League Teams at Post and Haller Middle Schools
- FIRST Tech Challenge Team at AHS
- FIRST Robotics Team at AHS - currently about 18 students active
- Also taught at the elementary schools in library and science classes

What makes robotics different?

- We give kids a hard problem without a clear answer and expect them to come up with a solution in a short amount of time.
- We pair them with adult mentors who have expertise in programming, computer aided design, engineering, construction, electronics, public relations and business.
- They learn alongside the mentors - "we refuse to build the robot for them"
- They will learn many things beyond how to build a robot...

Future Plans

- New Robotics/STEM lab at Arlington High School
- Robotics classes taught by Mr. Rob Hollis
- Mr. Hollis will continue to lead the club
- New Middle School teachers planning FIRST Lego participation for next year.
- Hope to expand Lego Robotics to the elementary schools.

District Updates

Dr. Sweeting provided ACE with district updates:

- COVID numbers continue to stay low
- COVID vaccine will not be required for children
- AHS held a senior dance
- AHS Principal Selection
- Haller AP – Brooke Howell
- Director of Technology – Matt Jurick
- Board Study Session – SIP Mid-Year Progress
- Regular Board Meeting Next Monday 4/25 Curriculum & Instructional Materials
- Administrative Assistant Professionals Appreciation Week April 25-29
- Certificated Staff Appreciation Week – May 2-6

Dr. Sweeting also reminded ACE members that we will need a few ACE members to present the ACE Board Report to the School Board in June.

Adjournment

Anne McAlvey made a motion, seconded by Judy Fay to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.