

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2018**

The December 13, 2018 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Neville 6:01 PM.

Present: Tim Neville and Ashley Depeau
Absent: Sarah Hernandez and Michelle Middleton
Also Present: Chris Drezek, Andy Longey, Guy Bourassa, Meghann Burr and John Dague
Audience: Walter Kruzel and Charlotte Riley

Curriculum committee members agreed to move the following presentations - Program of Studies: Seal of Biliteracy and Shift in Current Grade 10 APS SS Course Offerings to the January 10th meeting.

iPad Demonstration - Guy Bourassa and John Dague

Mr. Drezek explained that we are doing a good job with our technology infrastructure, but one area of concern is amount of access we give kids directly. He estimated that 90% of districts in Connecticut have 1-1 at the high school level, with most districts using Chrome books. The challenge with Chrome books is moving to a Google platform, which would cause us to change everything we do, including training. Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Drezek met with Apple to look at iPads as an alternative. One benefit of iPads is that you can use two platforms on it, Microsoft and Google. Mr. Drezek explained that currently technology requests from the budget presentations total half a million dollars at this point. If we went with 1-1 devices at the high school, we would avoid having to purchase much of what was requested.

Mr. Dague showed Committee members what the iPads have to offer our students. He also referenced budget requests, including the need for devices for AP resources and the use of iPads for science labs. The physical education and guidance departments are also looking for more devices; it's not just academic course areas. He discussed the students in the EMT program, their use of devices, and their need to have access to a device at home.

Committee members asked if money could be saved by buying iPads? Mr. Dague discussed science experiments and the use of data loggers. With iPads, we wouldn't have to purchase the materials needed for those activities. He also discussed the things that an iPad can do that a Chrome book cannot. He showed them an augmented reality app - a Mars lander and a turbine engine. Committee members were impressed by what Mr. Dague showed them.

Mr. Drezek named the districts currently using iPads. He added that Chrome books do not connect to Apple TVs, which most of our classrooms have.

Committee members asked where the content comes from, if it is open use, and if it can be easily implemented with our current curriculum and textbooks. Mr. Dague explained the content comes from the BBC and different publishers. Everything being shown are all open use. He showed the application for technology education, including video tutorials and interactive visuals. Students would have access to e-versions of textbooks that they could access from an iPad, but certain concepts are not kept up with textbooks, topics that could be explored through the devices.

Committee members asked about training and getting them for our teachers. Mr. Drezek said the training is built into the out-the-door price. Being the first district in our area to invest in Apple would be advantageous for. They will send people to train our staff anytime we'd like. Each high school teacher would receive one. Mr. Bourassa added the teachers can control what the students are doing in the classroom with our infrastructure to support this initiative.

Committee members asked about textbooks and cost savings. Mr. Dague said there are some areas where we wouldn't need to purchase as many textbooks and most publishers make the cost of the e-book the

same as the price of the hard copy and e-subscription. There would not be a lot of cost savings in areas that would still require textbooks. Mr. Drezek explained that if you buy a book on Amazon, buying the books on Kindle would be less expensive.

Committee members asked if students could use them at home and if there is a way to prevent students from accessing sites they should not. Mr. Bourassa responded yes to both questions.

Mr. Drezek stated the iPad keyboard is better than the one on Chromebooks. Mr. Bourassa said the keyboard is a physical connection and does not require charging, so it will always work. The battery life should last throughout the entire school day.

Mr. Drezek wanted to have this demonstration and discussions to inform everyone in advance about a project this large. He is not asking for new money to fund this initiative and plans to reallocate money that's currently in the budget. This initiative will benefit the students. He would like the Board's support.

Committee members mentioned that we have brought in technology in the past with insufficient training, so it wasn't used. How will you deal with this and assess whether it's being done? Mr. Drezek stated in the past, we supplied the teacher and outfitted the room, but not the students. The students are better than all of us at using these devices. He said our teachers will be forced to use this technology because the kids will have it in front of them. Mr. Dague added that currently the laptop carts are always signed out now, so the technology we have is being used.

Committee members asked about parental controls on the iPads and if we would need to revise our policy. Mr. Bourassa responded that we would be using a mobile management device so any apps that get sent will be distributed from here electronically. Mr. Longey added that students can't just put apps on the devices. Mr. Drezek explained that all updates are done from the centralized device. Mr. Longey said websites would be blocked and that the policy would not need to change.

Committee members asked about insurance policies and replacement costs. Mr. Drezek stated we are working with Apple on this and we are still in the negotiation phase.

Committee members asked about the funding. Mr. Drezek stated we budget for replacement technology every year, which is not used until the end of the year. If the money is still available, the money would come from there. He also explained the three-year lease cycle. There was discussion about the buy-back program offsetting the cycle.

Committee members asked who collects the devices and the cost of the device over three years. Mr. Bourassa explained that we collect the devices. Mr. Drezek stated the cost over three years is \$250, and we can pay \$1 for the device at that point or utilize the buy-back program.

Committee members asked if we would take the device from the seniors and give them to the freshmen. Mr. Drezek said we would for the first year and then we will reassess.

Committee members would like a presentation about this at an upcoming BOE and Town council meeting. Mr. Bourassa can create a YouTube video demonstrating what can be done with the devices. Chairman Kruzel asked them to come up with a presentation for February.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meghann Burr, Humanities Coordinator for
Michelle Middleton, Chief Academic Officer