

Malden School Committee
Subcommittee on Technology and Student Services
January 16, 2015, Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Superintendent's Office

Attendance: Maria Doucette, Chair; Pietro Cicolini; Larry Silverman; Adam Weldai
(Notes taken by Cicolini)

Also Present:

Michael Schiavo, Manager, Information Technology, Malden Public Schools
Joseph Gray, parent and former Malden School Committee candidate

-MEETING OPENED at 4:03 PM

1. Sub-committee asked Mr. Schiavo for a general update on the district's technological status.
 - a. Ms. Doucette wondered if the \$25 AUP premium for the recently received Chromebooks at the high school was too low and potentially insufficient to cover repairs and maintenance to the Chromebooks.
 - i. Michael Schiavo could not comment on sufficiency because he did not know specifics of our AUP.
 - ii. Based on his experience with AUPs for similar products in other districts, he also could not compare the plans.
 1. Malden has a specifically tailored AUP for Malden.
 2. It is not appropriate to compare the AUP for somewhere else, because the plans are customized on a district's needs and circumstances.
 - b. Mr. Schiavo reported that the firewall upgrade is complete.
 - i. Our usage rates have dropped considerably due to the extra capabilities with the new firewall.
 - c. Ms. Doucette asked Mr. Schiavo for an update on the inventory initiative.
 - i. Mr. Schiavo reported that he has regretfully had little time to complete the inventory.
 1. With the Chromebook rollout, firewall upgrades, upcoming online testing, and the day to day needs on a IT manager, he has been pulled away for other priority tasks.
 2. He did report an active inventory of equipment that connects to our system to get an IP address.
 - a. If a piece of equipment connects in, we know about it.
 - ii. Mr. Cicolini asked whether we have enough headphones for the PARCC exam in March and whether students could bring in their own headphones as a backup.
 1. Students can not use their headphones.
 - a. This has to do with maintaining consistent hardware throughout the district to streamline any necessary troubleshooting.
 2. The district has a supply of headphones for the exam, but exact numbers were not given.

3. Mr. Silverman recalls using low quality headphones for exams in his school district and how easily they broke.
 - a. Mr. Schiavo commented that those are likely the same headphones in storage here.
 - d. Mr. Cicolini asked if the Chromebooks could be used to administer PARRC.
 - i. Mr Schiavo confirmed that the Chromebooks could be used.
 1. He reported that the Chromebooks could be setup so that the exam launches at the press of a button, thereby locking out the user to the rest of the computer.
 2. We are not planning to use them for this upcoming session.
 - e. Mr. Silverman asked for an update on the X2 hosting changeover to an X2 server.
 - i. Mr. Schiavo reported that his staff has finished the background preparations for that changeover and we are on pace.
 - f. Mr. Silverman asked whether Mr. Schiavo knew how many computers, district-wide, were in each classroom for student use.
 - i. Mr. Schiavo could not report a number, but plans to complete a walk through to determine classroom computer stock.
 - ii. Mr. Schiavo reported that the older Dell computers in circulation are being replaced with IBM Lenovo models.
 1. The switch to Lenovo's were due to a lower bid.
 - g. Ms. Doucette asked about paper conservation and reducing the amount of printing.
 - i. Mr. Schiavo shared this concern, and would like to see the district move away from classroom printers to printer-pooling centralized among 3-4 classrooms.
 1. Not only is printing an environmental concern, but it is costly as well.
 - a. The district has spent approximately \$100,000 on just toner already and is about to place a new order soon.
 2. Mr. Schiavo reported to the sub-committee about bringing in a company to survey our printing usage and needs.
 - a. The company will present recommendations on printer setup and modifications.
 - b. If hired, the company would be responsible for our toner supply, printer maintenance, and even technical assistance .
 - c. Similar contracts have saved other districts considerable amount of money in this area of the budget.
 2. Ms. Doucette thanked Mr. Schiavo for his time once again.
 3. Ms. Doucette moved to adjourn.
 - a. All in favor.

-Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM