

TECHNOLOGY P.I.E. MEETING

[Problems, Issues, & Events]

February 5, 2025

Present

Ryan Alruwaily
Timothy Brooks
Brett Brown
MaryEllen Bunton
John Conner
Bob Cundiff
Cami Draper
Brian Golish
Matt Harmless
Samuel Harmless
Dane Hinds
Annette Hummel
Bradley Kile
Ken Koerber
Padraic Lowery
Christine Martin
Tamara Medina
Christina Orr
Michael Orr
Karen Petersen
Adrienne Phelps
Brian Pollitt
Jarren Saucedo
Caleb Seripinas
Christine Sloger Lowery
Mandy Stimac
Justin Thorlton
Kelly Truex
Megan Tucker
Todd Turner
Andrea VanLeer
Kristi Wagle

Building Needs & Concerns

Tamara Medina commented that student devices at Mark Denman Elementary seem to be requiring a shut down & restart several times a day. Teachers are asking if this can be limited to one shut down/restart at a certain time of the day, possibly right after school. Mike Orr mentioned that we've tried setting up a standard time of day before but there was negative feedback, stating it was disrupting student access, so we had to turn the policy off. Tamara stated it has mainly been affecting grade 3 & 4. This prompted discussion about Google classroom sessions, started by teachers and left open. These open sessions are often inappropriately used by students after school hours. Mike & Annette reiterated how important it is for Teachers to shut down their Google Classroom sessions at the end of every day to prevent students from misusing them.

Summer Refresh 2025

The IT Department is working on device counts for Summer Refresh. Our major focus will be replacing student chromebooks at North Ridge with a new 14" size like we did at Danville High School last summer.

Mandy Stimac asked if they could get a Dongle to use with their Smartboard in the North Ridge cafeteria. We will plan to purchase a dongle for every building administrator (Principal) for use in their building. Karen Petersen & Kelly Truex are working on this.

Miscellaneous

Mike Orr shared information about several projects he and Padraic are working on.

1. Hoping to roll out two-factor authentication (for computer login) sometime soon
2. Looking at options for replacing the entire phone system
3. They are still working on the UPS project (back-up power supply)
4. Planning to upgrade to windows 11 before the end of the year
5. Switch to Team Viewer or Team Viewer Intune for Help Desk remote desktop access

Andrea VanLeer asked what multifactor authentication will look like for teachers. Mike commented that he's heard positive feedback from some staff already using this. They like how it only requires having to sign in once a day and being able to access everything they use. Once you log in, a code is sent to a user's device to verify your identity and give access. We are not forcing staff to have to use their personal cell phones, but it does make the process better if you are working away from your office or classroom. Mike commented that we have been checking with other schools to see what their practice is, and most have stated their staff use their personal cell phone to authenticate their login. We will see how it goes for our district.

Todd Turner stated that the school he previously worked for used this same process. He said those that chose not to use their cell phone used their desk phone but if a person isn't by their office phone, then it becomes an inconvenience. MaryEllen Bunton commented that when she first started using two-factor authentication, she chose to use her phone number. She eventually switched to her cell phone because then she could authenticate from wherever she was working, whether she's at home or away.

MaryEllen Bunton commented about an opportunity in March with Canvas. We have a small group of staff that are going to pilot Canvas to see what it's like. This is mainly for working with students receiving virtual instruction. We are hoping to offer professional development for this in the summer. It looks very exciting and appears to be something that will make things easier for everyone. So far, it has been a positive experience for

ones that have worked with it. MaryEllen is excited to use this with virtual students and added that the grading aspect seems very nice. Mandy Stimac asked if Canvas would replace TeacherEase. MaryEllen Bunton replied that it would not, but teachers could easily move grades to TeacherEase, comparable to the Google process. Canvas has a great standards-based grading tool with it, and it helps set up quizzes and so on, but it is not a gradebook.

Annette brought up the conversation we've had in the past about the Google tool requiring multiple logins daily. Mike said he tested turning off ephemeral mode in Google to see if it would fix the multiple login issue, and now it looks like everyone is back to only having to do a daily login. Andrea commented that the Google login has returned to a regular daily login for the most part, but now they are having to restart their computer 2 or 3 times a day. Mike said IT could check to see if there is an update that's stuck, causing the restart issue.

Mandy Stimac commented that their students at North Ridge are having to get replacement chromebooks way too frequently because they broke or misplaced theirs. Teachers are frustrated because they want the students to be more responsible. She asked if we could require monetary responsibility for this. Annette stated that, unfortunately, our state laws tell us we cannot require this. Mandy asked if teachers could go back to just having a classroom set. Annette commented that this topic has come up in many discussions, but they haven't found the right solution yet. It comes down to trying to find the best balance for the student & the classroom. What is the purpose of being 1 to 1 if there is an extra set in the classroom. Most of the time the extra chromebooks in the classroom disappear. Mike commented that at DHS, if a student forgets their chromebook, or doesn't charge it, they may have to use a desktop in the classroom or just take notes on paper and then transfer the work to their chromebook after school. Annette asked if any buildings are still sending letters to the parents/guardians when a student has checked out more than 2 replacement laptops due to loss or damage. The letter stated that students would not be assigned another chromebook to take home, it would have to stay in the classroom, due to loss/damage of previous devices. Caleb Seripinas stated that North Ridge was doing this but there didn't seem to be much support from the parent/guardian. Mandy stated they absolutely appreciate the extra 2 or 3 in the classroom as spares because they use them all the time. Annette commented that we could consider leaving a couple of the smaller chromebooks in the North Ridge classrooms as extras after we upgrade to the 14" device, as long as they are not needed in other buildings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 am

Upcoming virtual meetings: March 5th & April 2nd at 7am / In-Person meeting May 7th