

I. Call to Order

Call to Order: Chairman Morgan

Present: District 1 – Joe Arnold
District 2 – Malissa Morgan, Chairman
District 3 – Dixie Ball
District 4 – India Riedel
District 5 – Jill Holcomb, Vice Chairman
Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools
Tom Conely, School Board Attorney

II. Workshop – Technology Update

Superintendent Kenworthy introduced Shawna May, Director of Information Technology, and Michelle Branham, Coordinator of Instructional Technology. Superintendent Kenworthy stated that decisions regarding moving forward with technology, especially in the 1:1 program, will need to be made in the near future. Board members were provided Chromebooks to participate in demonstrations during the workshop. The following are highlights and discussions presented by Mrs. May and Mrs. Branham.

- The use of technology prepares students to be college and career ready. An online course is now a graduation requirement for students in this district, and technology skills are incorporated in the Florida Standards. Also, online testing is continuing to grow, and students need to have technology skills for testing purposes. Fortunately, most students are “wired” to use technology skills on a daily basis, and children are becoming tech savvy at younger ages than ever before.
- Okeechobee County School District is a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) district. Teachers and students have Google accounts for email, Google Drive, and Chromebooks, and a major goal is that students and teachers collaborate during the education process.
- Schoology is being used as the District’s Learning Management System (LMS). Schoology facilitates collaboration, organization, current information, and resources. Everything that Schoology provides is guided by and linked to Florida Standards.
- Textbooks now come online with online resources.
- The Board participated in a [Kahoot.it](#) exercise guided by Mrs. Branham.
- Technology allows for differentiated and personalized learning as well as formative assessment and higher order skills. With each student having a device, teachers can personalize instruction and programs for each student. Teachers can determine what technology tools work best for their students and can assess student skills very quickly by using Google Forms. The use of technology for instruction in District classrooms is growing rapidly in all grade levels including kindergarten through 12th grade and the career tech programs.
- Osceola Middle School and Yearling Middle School are currently 1:1 (one device to one student). The OHS Freshman Campus is awaiting their shipment of Chromebooks and will also be completely 1:1. This brings the total Chromebooks in the district to 3,200. There are currently 250 wireless access points across the district which is approximately two classrooms per access point. Next year, 100 aging access points will be replaced to support the newest technology. This will be funded with E-rate funding.
- Okeechobee High School will be the next school to go completely 1:1 with the funding coming from Digital Classroom Plan (DCP) money. The cost will be approximately \$330,000. After that, the elementary schools will be addressed beginning with 5th grade and working down to kindergarten. By 2019-2020, there will be approximately 6,400 devices in the district. Since the devices have a 4 or 5-year life span, devices will have to be rotated and replaced regularly.
- Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is available offline for students/teachers while not connected to Wifi, and it syncs whenever back in a Wifi area. Mrs. May suggested that the School District partner with local businesses that are free Wifi sites through the Economic Council. Comcast and CenturyLink provide \$10 per month internet access for students who have free or reduced lunch status.
- Responses to a Climate Survey question, *The District should provide each student with an electronic device (tablet, etc.) for educational use in the home with parents being responsible for repair/replacement*, were:
 - Strongly Agree – 29.47%
 - Agree – 27.47%
 - Disagree – 19.58%
 - Strongly Disagree – 11.26%
 - No Opinion – 12.21%

Minutes of
Okeechobee County School Board Workshop
December 8, 2015
6:00 p.m.

- Responses to a Climate Survey question, *My child has access to wireless internet service at home*, were:
 - Yes – 78.63%
 - No – 21.37%
- Sample policies for the utilization of 1:1, district-provided, electronic devices from Hardee, St. Johns, Jackson, Monroe, and St. Lucie Counties were provided to the Board for consideration of the following questions:
 - Do students take the devices home?
 - Does the District charge a tech fee/insurance fee?
 - Who pays for damaged Chromebooks?
 - How are lost/stolen devices handled?
 - Are parents allowed to opt out of their student receiving a device?
 - Can students bring and use their own device?
- The Board discussed the above-listed questions, concerns, and points of interest. The following summarizes points of discussion:
 - Parents may be more willing to provide wireless internet service in their homes at \$10 per month if the District provides the electronic device.
 - Concerns regarding theft and damage/breakage for devices taken home were discussed. Some districts have a \$25 tech fee for devices taken home or a progressive fee schedule based on the number of incidents. Fees that are collected could be placed in a pool for the repair and replacement of damaged and lost devices. A parent might be required to attend a mandatory meeting to confirm that they understand their responsibilities, monetarily and otherwise, for devices that their students take home.
 - In answer to concerns about access to inappropriate web sites from the devices, Mrs. May explained that the student must log on to his/her device to use it at home, and everything goes through the District's web filter. The result is that whatever is blocked at school is also blocked at home.
 - A concern was expressed regarding someone at another location being able to turn on the device's camera while it is used in the home. Mrs. May responded that she did not think that would be possible but that she would do some investigation and report her findings.
 - Mrs. May suggested that the program to take the devices from school to home and back be piloted at the OHS Freshman Campus. She has met with staff at the OHS Freshman Campus to discuss a plan for doing so.
 - The Board requested that any suggested policies regarding a plan for taking devices home include procedures for accountability, consequences for not following policies or paying damages, a fee, options for opting out, a parent meeting before a device goes home, and the District should have device access before and after school. Plans should also include a pilot for releasing the devices to home in gradual steps.
- Superintendent Kenworthy closed the presentation by stating that he would bring draft procedures to the Board at their meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, for their consideration and input.

III. Adjournment

Chairman Morgan adjourned the workshop at 5:30 p.m.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(Signature on File)

Malissa Morgan, Chairman

(Signature on File)

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools