

Discussables

January 30, 2018

Those in attendance: Jeff Miller, Jill Jones, Rebecca Wells, Kathy Thompson, Ginger Butcher, Kathy O'Sullivan, Christina Allen, Jon Baker, Mark Misch, Scott Mills

Papercut

Scott shared that the Papercut software that was used to track copying and printing by individuals has now ended. NWCS will continue to monitor our copying and printing levels as buildings and as a district.

Revised Policy 3120 Employment of Professional Staff:

The board has accepted this policy on first reading. This policy will be on the agenda for the next Board Meeting with or without changes based on the discussion. This policy addresses employment situations with professional staff. The main revision covers situations where a supervisor could have a relative or related individual under his/her direct supervision.

It was questioned whether this policy covered relatives who are both teachers. This policy does not. It was also asked who would be responsible for ensuring that conflict of interest forms was being filled out. It will be the responsibility of school administration.

The policy defines relatives or related individuals, but these definitions only apply to this policy at this time.

The discussion concluded when NCTA shared that they were fine with the policy as written.

eBackPack

eBackPack has unfortunately taken a turn for the worse now that the company updated the app. The new version of the iPad app is not functioning well but the old version of the app is still available. Scott will ask the technology committee to discuss if we should look for a different LMS at their next meeting on Thursday.

Dr. Mills shared that the new app does not have an off-line option. He does feel pretty confident that the old eBackPack app will work until after Spring Break which should solve the offline problem for this year.

Teachers shared some of their frustrations with the new eBackpack app. They were agreeable to let the Tech committee discuss the future of our LMS.

eLearning

Feedback from parents regarding eLearning continues to show that we are inconsistent in our use of eBackPack, especially on eLearning Days. In some cases, parents perceive these inconsistencies as teachers not doing their jobs or taking the day off during eLearning days. Because of these perceptions, Dr. Mills would like to set some expectations for teachers on what must be on eBackpack during eLearning days.

Scott shared he would like to make the expectation that all teachers will use eBackpack for eLearning days. Students would need to use the old eBackPack app to be able to get learning activities off-line. Scott wants teachers to have an assignment that shows up on the calendar on the eLearning date and have at least one assignment that the students are to submit on the day of eLearning.

It was brought up that students are still telling teachers they don't have to turn in their work on eLearning days because they have five days to do it. Scott said that there is a five-day grace period for students who have legitimate difficulties in turning in eLearning assignments. Teacher should question students to find out what their difficulties were in completing the assignments so they can determine how to manage the situation.

In the future, we will want to talk more about the minimum expectations of the district selected LMS to be used on a regular basis. Office 365 has some potential but it probably won't be a viable option some time down the road.

After discussing these items, there were no objections of moving forward with any of the discussed items.