Committee of the Whole
Report No. 24-057

Business and Learning Technologies Technology Plan 2023-2027

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PURPOSE:

1.   To share with the Committee of the Whole the Technology Plan 2023-2027.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2.   The Technology Plan, Transforming How We Learn and Work, 2023-2027, (Appendix A) creates conditions for our students and staff to excel. It supports the OCDSB's Strategic Plan goals by providing a robust infrastructure which allows students and staff to learn and work in a seamless, connected, and secure digital environment. On the learning side, technology has an increased impact on classroom practices and on our ability to further engage students through the development of rich learning tasks which emphasize collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. On the business side, technology is critical to the delivery of services, the management of information and improves our capacity to enhance our risk management culture.

CONTEXT:

3.   In fall 2019, Business and Learning Technologies (BLT) launched a new technology plan "Transforming How We Learn and Work" which focused on four areas and goals:

> **Modern Learning:** We will invest in modern learning experiences that leverage technology as a tool to access, create and share knowledge;
> **Digital Transformation:** We will leverage digital technologies to improve business processes, culture and experience;
> **Seamless and Innovative Technologies**: We will optimize assets, infrastructure and services to maximize our educational and business practices; and
> **Privacy and Security:** We will protect data by building a culture of privacy, security and digital leadership.

A yearly operational plan guided the specific work of BLT toward the goals connected with each theme. At the end of the three year plan, a report was taken

to the Director's Executive Council (DEC) which outlined a review of the existing plan and a path to create a second version of the existing plan.

Through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, IBM K-12 was engaged to review existing data and feedback and to conduct focus groups. This work was carried out in the spring of 2023. Following their review, they proposed revisions to the existing technology plan, Transforming How We Learn and Work.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. **Modern Learning vs Learning**
   The term Modern Learning was coined in the early part of the 21st century, referring to the redefinition of the learning experience through technology. In the 2023-2027 OCDSB Strategic Plan there is a focus on learning, particularly on improvement in the areas of literacy and numeracy. In this version of Transforming How We Learn and Work, Modern Learning has been changed to Learning to align with the Strategic Plan. The focus for our students and staff will be centered around using technology in support of learning and improving student achievement.

5. **Digital Transformation**
   Digital transformation was the area that saw the most growth in the last technology plan, primarily out of the need to transform many paper based practices into digital processes during the pandemic. During our review of the technology plan, it was determined that digital transformation is no longer a goal we strive to achieve but is rather embedded in all the work that we do. There are still practices in the District that need to be transformed into digital, however they are currently planned for and covered in one of the other areas of the Technology Plan.

6. **Seamless and Innovative Technologies**
   BLT continues to invest in an infrastructure that enables staff and students to connect to resources seamlessly. We learned from the pandemic that many of our students do not have access to reliable technology at home, making it difficult to continue learning as more resources are online. An equitable access to technology model will ensure that students have the tools they need to learn both at school and at home. The District will continue to invest in modern enterprise solutions which will allow our staff to do their work efficiently and effectively.

7. **Privacy and Security**
   Students and staff are faced with several challenges in the area of privacy and security in the digital landscape. Understanding the implications of their actions is critical to being safe and having a healthy online presence. For students, this involves understanding their responsibilities as digital citizens and the impacts to their health by balancing their online and offline presence. For staff, it is understanding their responsibility to protect the student, staff and corporate data that is under their responsibility. While the goal in this area has not changed, the work the District needs to do to achieve this goal is always evolving.

8. **Strategies to Support the Achievement of the Goals**

    A robust professional learning and training program will be essential in achieving the goals in the plan. While finding occasional staff to back fill educators continues to be a challenge for the District, strategies such as resources shared through the Learning Network, collaborating with other departments, and comprehensive communication plans will be critical to the success of this Plan.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

9. Business and Learning Technologies will fund any printing costs associated with the new Technology Plan from its operating budget.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

10. A comprehensive consultation plan was developed in the review of the 2019-2022 Technology Plan. Staff from various departments, representatives from school staff and students were invited to provide feedback. Additionally, data from the surveys undertaken during the pandemic were leveraged as they provide a wealth of information about technology use. Furthermore, feedback gathered from Trustees and advisory committees during the Appropriate Use for Technology Policy consultation was considered in the development of this Plan.

    BLT will work with Communications on a full communication plan which will include principals, school and board staff, trustees, students and the parent community. The District Website has been updated to reflect the new plan.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

The following questions are provided for discussion purposes:
- How does the Technology Plan 2023- 2027 align with the strategic priorities of the board?
- How does the plan address the needs of our staff and students?
- How does the plan align with the objectives of the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap?

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James Proulx, Executive Officer   Pino Buffone
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APPENDICES

Appendix A 2023-2027 Technology Plan