DRAFT

Focus Group with Technology Department Focus Group

March 24, 2014

**Please give some examples of what you consider to be “up to date and emerging” instructional technologies. Also, please give examples of how you would like to see these technologies used.**

* Flipped Classroom
* Interactive white boards
* Document cameras such as Hover Cams and Elmo
* Qwizdoms
* Ed Moto
* Collaborative software such as Google Docs and Share Points
* Remote teaching, video conferencing and Face to Face (skyping)
* Microsoft 365 new e-mail and the possibility of shared documents
* Twitter

**Examples of how you would like to see these technologies used:**

* Difficult question. They say they are not in the classrooms to see how the technology is used on a day to day manner.
* Not sure how successful these technologies are in the classroom when they are used

**Please define the term technology/technical support:**

**Technology:** any device that involves electronics, digital or communication

**Technical Support:** that is the actual physical support of the hardware and software which also involves supporting the users as well as the devices.

**Based on your definition, how do you as a staff provide the technology/technical support necessary for teachers to accomplish their curricular goals?**

* use of hardware/software request form via the HELP DESK

**To what extent do you agree with the following statement: “The district ensures a budget that supports the continual upgrade and maintenance of the technology infra-structure? Why or why not: Please be specific.**

* Yes, the budget does plan for the continual upgrades of hardware and software except perhaps for specific content areas such as math and science. For example upgrading the operating system often calls for an upgrade for the software, content software included here.

**What do you feel are the upcoming and/or “pressing “ issues that Foxborough faces in terms of support and deploying technology resources for its teachers, students and administrators?**

* The need for standards identifying “ acceptable software” versus “ unacceptable software”
* The need to list the hardware and software in the system, noting the grade level the software is appropriate for and what the software does and who uses it. This way staff who are interested in the software can speak to the other faculty member who is using it to find out if it is the software they would want to use.
* More communication between the faulty and the technology department regarding what faculty wants to do with the technology and with what software so that the technology department can determine if the software is compatible with the operating system and hardware.
* Researching the types of software prior to purchasing so that the software is appropriate for the intended use
* More communication between the faculty and the technology department regarding what the faculty wants from the technology and seeing if the district already has existing software that meets the needs.
* Teachers sometimes are “marketed to” and they want the device and/or software shared by the company. However, the system may have the hardware and software to meet the educational needs and therefore does not need to purchase the devices or software that companies try to market to the teachers. Some devices are individual devices and are not made to be shared.
* More planning and collaboration around projects, timelines and timing of large projects.
* More PD on technology…having staff share their expertise on specific hardware and software.
* Lack of time since the department serves the public schools as well as the town (town hall, police, fire, recreation)

**Is there anything else that you would like to mention that has not come up in our discussion?**

* The Technology Department is rarely recognized unless something goes wrong
* Lack of understand of what the department does throughout the district and town