

Sabin Middle School
School Accountability Committee (SAC)
4/9/18

Attendance:

Parent Members:

Neil Pettigrew
Velvet Stepanek (Chair)
Steve Stepp
Suzanne Warmington

School Members:

Jared Welch

Community Members:

Regular meeting was called to order by Velvet in the Sabin Library at 6:00 pm.

1) Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

2) Approve Agenda

Agenda was approved.

3) Approve March Minutes

The minutes were sent out with the agenda for this month. There were no objections to the minutes from last meeting.

4) iPad Survey Results

Next year there will be classroom sets of iPads. iPads will stay at school. This will mean additional costs for the school and responsibility. iPads will be stored at school and charged at school. Carts will need to be purchased.

The Verizon grant gave each student a data plan. Each student having an iPad has not increased productivity. Work is not getting completed at home. The data plans have not been used for what is needed. This year we have Apple classroom so teachers can see what students are doing on their iPads in class.

We had over \$24,000 of repairs last year. A cost benefit analysis was done. Sabin was better overall at using the technology this year.

Survey Results:

Challenges: Sabin's biggest challenges were device management on the school, classroom, and student level. This year alone, we've had roughly 456 iPads reported lost, and 840 iPads found around the building. Also, we have had 147 devices damaged overall. Students bringing devices to class and charged continues to be a challenge.

Lessons Learned:

- Making iPads a required tool reduced the number of day users and increased the number of students without a device. Allowing students to "opt-out" had students using phones to avoid filters and monitoring as well as increased the workload for teachers to create alternative lessons.

- Devices are not a replacement for quality teaching, but a tool to create powerful learning, redefining and transforming education.
- The LMS is essential and should be the basic starting point for all students and staff.
- The self-serve app portal greatly improved tech services and Apple Classroom, along with clear expectations on device usage, greatly improved time on task.

2. Did the devices demonstrate improved academic achievement?

Sabin LTE and VILs coach, Marsha West

We saw a decline in academic achievement the first year as a VILS school as noted on standardized testing, but with the transition in testing formats, it is difficult to say if there is a direct correlation. According to Digital Promise, it is common for test scores to decline the first year of implementing 1:1.

During walkthroughs and observations, a handful of students were consistently off-task, playing games and watching videos. Much improvement was noted during the second year as teachers raised their expectations, implemented Apple Classroom, became more purposeful in using devices as tools, and our school policies better supported using devices as a tool instead of for play. Also, teachers have become more comfortable and gained more skills in integrating technology. Roughly 72% of students state that the devices have helped them learn, with 52% noticing an increase in grades, 27% increase in test scores, and 44% note an increase in work completion. Nearly 81% of teachers report an increase in student engagement and 55% have noticed at least some improvement in academic achievement. Similarly, 70% of parents agree that the devices have helped their students learn, but only 15% believe it has improved achievement and/or grades.

3. Did students have difficulty reading from devices versus reading from paper?

Sabin LTE and VILs coach, Marsha West

Students did not have trouble reading from devices, but some students prefer reading from books and paper.

4. Which is better for memory? What does Sabin say about the use?

Sabin LTE and VILs coach, Marsha West

I don't know that we have any evidence or can give an opinion regarding memory. If you are referring to memory on the devices, 16GB is not nearly enough.

5. Were the parents frustrated that students had to do work on the device and not on paper... hard for them to help at home?? We have a few instances where that was shared.

Sabin LTE and VILs coach, Marsha West

Over 60% of parents think using the iPads was a good idea with an additional 21% stating "maybe." Parent frustrations can be categorized into the following:

1. Cost--The insurance fee, based on FRL, and the Schoology fee were pain points for some of our low-income families as well as those who pay full price. For some, it was the inability to pay while for others it was the principle of having to pay for a device that was required and used for public education.

2. Damage—There were frustration from parents regarding paying for broken cases and unreturned chargers, thinking that those should be included in the insurance fee. However, with chargers costing

\$23 and cases costing \$35, it is financially impossible to cover those costs. Parents have also expressed concerns that their students were not responsible enough to care for the device while others were worried about financial obligations if the device was broken.

3. Connecting to WIFI—Students had difficulty connecting to WIFI, despite individual instruction during roll-out, emails, phone calls, and written instructions distributed. Much of the time, it was user error.

4. Philosophical---Concerns about screen time, game playing, YouTube, inappropriate content, and dependence on tech 5. Managing devices and off-task behavior at home. Parents reported that their students spent much time on their devices at home, but that it was not being used for academic purposes.

Surveys:

- Staff Survey 2017-2018 Mid-year summative
- Parent Survey 2016-2017 end of year 1
- Student Survey 2016-2017 end of year 1
- Staff Survey 2016-2017 end of year 1 summative
- Parent Survey 2017-2018 mid-year input for 3rd year
- Student Survey 2017-2018 mid-year input for 3rd year

Notable Parent Comments from the surveys:

I feel that the iPads are a wonderful, innovative tool that has helped my daughter tremendously! My daughter is not very "paper" organized however, the iPad has helped to keep her organized in all her classes since the information needed is online. The iPads have brought School District 11 into the 21st century!!

As a parent and a member of IT working for the city I can say that having the skill set to be able to work online is becoming more of a necessity. I have been concerned with how is the use of the IPADS preparing students for high school as they may not have them at the school, however I feel that having the opportunity to work with the technology is great and should be continued if it is possible.

I don't like them. I think the kids are losing the opportunity to learn skills such as grammar, spelling, punctuation, and basic typing. I also don't like being financially responsible for such an expensive item. Nor do I like not being able to limit access to such items....I would prefer kids knew how to use books.

I feel it has been beneficial and a factor in my choice of school for my child.

A pdf instructional guide for parents would be great with troubleshooting data and connection issues included.

I think there should be a flat fee for everyone regardless of their income. Many of us do not have free or reduced lunch and having a pay \$50 or more for an iPad that you don't own is ridiculous also no one could use their own iPad and were required to use the school one so paying was unavoidable as I find this was annoying due to these iPads being available on a grant which didn't cost the school anything and my child didn't cause any damage or anything to their iPad so the fees didn't make sense.

I would find more value in the iPads if the systems would work from home. A classroom set would be more beneficial with software or an application that can be logged into (securely) from any device at home.

Often times, I have seen my student at home using the iPad for non-school related things, such as online games and YouTube. His teachers have expressed that my student is misusing it as school as well (resulting in a technology suspension). Rather than a useful tool, the iPad has become a distraction, both in class and here at home. Yes, I believe that it is important for students to learn how to use technology and to be exposed to it because in the real world it's useful to know. But when their exposure to technology is stepping on the toes of quality education, making it difficult for the teachers to maintain student focus, and providing a means of entertainment when the time should be devoted to study, I wonder if there is another option to be explored. My student's grades have dropped dramatically since the iPad and I feel that at least part of the issue is that it provides too much of a distraction. Eleven-year-olds are being expected to have the discipline to use technology at a level many college-aged students struggle to achieve, especially since prior to this screen time was devoted to entertainment. I do not support continuing the iPad program.

5) Verizon Innovative Learning Lab Update

We are going to discuss this at the next meeting.

6) USIP Updates

We are seeing growth from changes we are making based on the USIP. We have seen growth in all subset groups based on our ANet scores. Teachers are using the information from ANet tests to inform instruction.

We are still working on the culture piece but are continuing to make changes to Advisory and WEB leader groups to help improve culture. We want to bring back students being able to recognize staff for good things. We also mentioned that parents can use the Add Value to the Handshake button from Dr. Gledich on the D11 page to give credit to teachers or staff that are doing great things. We would like to see more appreciation given.

We are still seeing that work needs to be done with complex texts and with math. We are continuing to work to make students successful in math. Some students are many years behind so it's hard. There is a lot of potential for growth.

7) Discipline Data

The discipline data for this month looks the same as other months. Discipline is measured differently this year.

8) Budget Updates

The school (and district) are looking at ways to cut back on classroom fees. The gym floor will not be replaced until next year because of the additional cost.

9) Good News

Both of our assistant principals are going to be new principals next year. Ken Pfeil will be at Trailblazer Elementary and Tracy Squires will be at Fremont Elementary. We will miss these assistant principals. Mr. Welch will have the opportunity to interview new assistant principals.

We are also going to be losing many in our front office due to retirements and other job opportunities. We appreciate the job the ladies in the front office do.

Scott White, eighth grade Social Studies Teacher, is a Crystal Apple Winner!

10) Upcoming School Events

Luau – April 19 – parents are invited to come and eat lunch with their students
Volleyball and Track are in full swing.