

Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)
Town of Belmont
16 June 2014
Conference Room 1

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2014 JUL 17 AM 8:55

APPROVED MINUTES

[Minutes are sent to the Town Clerk, belmont-ma.gov!townclerk when approved]

Voting Members Present

- Phil Lawrence <illinoisalumni.org!pwl> (co chair; dominant) (VM)
- Jim Berets <verizon.net!jberets> (co-chair; less dominant) (VM)
- Dave Goldberg <verizon.net!david.goldberg6> (secretary) (VM)
- Charles Smart <verizon.net!cnsmart> (founding chair) (VM)
- Dan Ellard <gmail.com!ellard> (VM)
- Duane Bronson, <real-time.com!bronson> (VM)
- John Lohavichan, <gmail.com!john.lohavichan> (VM)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Town Staff Present:

- Steve Mazzola (Director of Technology, Belmont Schools) <belmont.k12.ma.us!SMazzola> (TS)
- John Steeves (IT/Technology, Belmont Police Department) <belmontpd.org!jsteeves>

Key:

VM = Voting ITAC Member
NVM = Non-Voting Member
FBL = Friend of Belmont Library
TS = Town Staff

Meeting called to order at 7:35PM

Minutes of the 14 May 2014 ITAC meeting accepted as is.

John Steeves reported that the Police department is replacing equipment including a records server and mobile units in the cars. In addition to a change in hardware, the new mobile units will run a different software system. That software is provided by QED, the vendor of the record management system, which will continue to run on the new records server. Moving the new mobile units to the QED software will enable better integration with the records management system. In addition the LiveScan fingerprinting system is being upgraded.

Steve Mazzola reported that the schools are preparing to close for the summer and get into the summer projects. Already some network related projects are underway since those can be done without interfering with production operations. Education technology department met with 8th graders and parents to prepare them for the iPad program including provisioning the iPads, though students will not get them until September. Current iPads will be collected on 17 and 18 June. Each student will receive the same iPad in the fall. The iPads will be evaluated for software issues such as lack of upgrades and do those over the summer as needed. The iPads and cases will also be evaluated for physical issues so that Education Technology will learn how well they held up, if alternate cases should be considered etc. In terms of products on the iPads, next year the school will continue with freshmen and sophomore

social studies texts and a physics text on the iPad is being reviewed. Textbooks are licensed to the students so a new set of licenses has to be purchased each year. This is more expensive in the long run than buying paper texts and using them for ten or more years but this does ensure that the texts are always up to date and there are other benefits to the electronic version. Most students reported that they preferred the electronic texts to paper ones for reasons including, not having to carry as much, not having to run to a locker to get a book in order to study during a free period, and other features of the electronic text such as multimedia. It is understood that this is all based on a single year with the iPads distributed to an entire class so more data will have to be gathered over the next several years to determine the best use cases. Over the summer, more teachers will be trained on how best to take advantage of iPads and other technology in the classroom.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 16, July at 7:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM