<u>Board members present:</u> Bart Bezio, Katie Orost, Lisa Barry, Mark Stebbins,
<u>Others:</u> Deb Clark, Brian Pena, Jeremy LaClair

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

As there was no committee chair, D. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:18.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and the motion was passed.

D. Clark noted that L. Barry is prepared to accept nominations if nominated, and then asked for nominations. M. Stebbins nominated L. Barry, B. Bezio seconded and L. Barry was unanimously approved as committee chair.

L. Barry took over the meeting and asked about a minute taker. D. Clark noted that it can be difficult for full participation if a participant is also taking minutes. M. Stebbins suggested that maybe Donna Griffiths could transcribe meeting recordings and there was unanimous agreement to this.

The committee agreed to meet monthly. D. Clark suggested meeting at 5:15 before board meetings on the second Monday every month. The board agreed to plan on that initially. The meeting time can be adjusted if the committee decides more time is needed.

L. Barry said she thinks the committee could possibly also meet in person as the group is small. D. Clark said we could probably figure out a way to meet at the tech center. M. Stebbins said it is not difficult to use this platform with a small group.

The committee will cover K-12 technology. D. Clark said we are in year 3 of B. Pena's 5 year tech plan. Refreshing the 5 year plan with new information might be a place for the committee to start. L. Barry said it should be revisited every year anyway. The committee agreed that revisiting the 5 year plan is one goal. M. Stebbins said he thinks that will probably help us determine other things to focus on.

K. Orost asked if this is also the group that talks about iPads vs. Chromebooks vs. laptops. Others said it is. B. Bezio said he thinks the committee probably should regularly discuss device strategy. That will be critical input into the budget.

L. Barry said she would love to hear more about plans for tech integration districtwide. Is there something consistent across the whole SU around technology curriculum and when things are taught? Who teaches what? The committee agreed that this topic could also be covered by the curriculum committee. It makes sense for both committees to discuss it. L. Barry is on both committees.

B. Bezio said he would love to hear thoughts on strategic initiatives and information on us getting smarter. What is IT monitoring to manage the team? Are there key performance indicators or metrics? Do they review tickets? Are there SLA's in place? He is interested in policies and procedures.

L. Barry suggested maybe at the next meeting B. Pena could have an opportunity to educate the committee, talk about what he sees in the district, where we are and maybe give some thoughts on the future. B. Pena said he can do that.

L. Barry asked if B. Pena sees any major purchases that need to happen in the district. D. Clark said there may be purchases related to some of the recent issues. Does B. Pena see a need for any long-term regular budget items? B. Pena said nothing that will be a significant impact. We just made a large purchase of iPads and computers to get us closer to one-to-one. He doesn't foresee making large purchases to support one-to-one. Maybe smaller purchases to replace devices broken or lost.

D. Clark said with regard to recent events the impulse is to ask how this happened and where we went wrong. She thinks in the last 2 weeks we have learned a lot. We have pulled in two professional support groups, an IT group out of Burlington and RSM, which is doing a forensic deep dive for us. What we have learned is that in the last 4 years we have done the right things. We have moved to more cloud-based computing. We have moved to develop redundancies. We have some tertiary backups. When this happened we never lost the ability to provide education services. We didn't lose internet because we had a secondary system we could switch over to. We didn't lose email because we migrated to Gmail a couple of years ago. We just found out this morning that our financial system successfully backed up and was up to date as of when everyone left the day before the incident. It took this long to find that out because Tyler Technologies, our Infinite Visions vendor, also was hacked over 3 weeks ago through their communication systems. So B. Pena couldn't just call their customer support. He had to go through security hoops to prove to them that we had a safe system that they could work on. We now have a safe standalone system and we will now start talking to them about what it means to be cloud vs. in-house on that item. We have learned from J. LaClair's and B. Pena's work with The Tech Group and comments from RSM, who provided us with high tech security that is scanning the systems and adding a layer of protection, that ultimately we will never protect ourselves from attack. What we need to do moving forward is position ourselves to mitigate damage and loss and quicken the restore time. The Tech Group will help us in the rebuild. We will start to institute more redundancies, maybe a 4th backup for some things. We have continued through all of this to meet our obligations. That speaks volumes to the work that has happened in the last 4 years. We met with RSM, the forensic group, today. There continues to be no indication that there was a data breach or an exfiltration of data. There was no exfiltration of sensitive data. All student info is on the cloud. There is some money involved. We have insurance for cyber events. We have been in communication with our lawyer and the insurance company. We have talked to the auditors. This may not have financial impact because we have insurance but it was a significant event. The audit was 85% to 90% complete. The auditors weren't concerned.

B. Pena echoed everything D. Clark said. We have done so much work in the past 4 years adding different layers of security and improving the potential for us to minimize how we are impacted. He doesn't think any IT company or security firm will tell you they are prepared to block ransomware. It is impossible to block these automated scripts and these teams that will constantly probe and try to get in. It was a huge blow to him. The IT team has done so much. He commends them for everything they do. J. LaClair has been great.

D. Clark said with all of this people across the community are maintaining their demeanor. The tech team has been patient with everyone. All of Lamoille North works well as a team. This is a bad event but it hasn't shut us down.

J. LaClair said the flexibility teachers have shown in adapting to new devices or changing instruction on the fly has been impressive. That has allowed IT to concentrate on getting things back up and running. It has been great working with B. Pena on this and seeing his leadership ability shine.

B. Bezio asked, do we know who the group was? Was there an actual ransom? D. Clark said RSM thinks it was an older version of THT, a Trojan horse which thankfully is not associated with exfiltration of data, but they are still investigating.

B. Pena said 474 devices have had new software from CrowdStrike installed on them. CrowdStrike provided the software to us now while we are in this phase. Whether we keep it or not is a discussion. It would have budget impacts. We are looking at other well-known vendors that offer a service that will help us mitigate and recover from a ransomware attack in the future. He noted that THT stands for TimisoaraHackerTeam.

M. Stebbins moved to adjourn at 5:55, B. Bezio seconded and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths