



Minutes of the Academic & Technology Committee of the  
East Lansing Board of Education  
East Lansing High School - Hub  
5/5/2026 at 2:00pm

### **Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Terah Chambers at 2:03pm.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Terah Chambers, Estrella Torrez, Chris Martin, Mark Dobson, Christian Palasty (plus two members of the district technology team), Amy Martin

Absent: Kyla Caldwell (student rep), Mason Adams (student rep)

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Estrella Torrez and seconded by Terah Chambers. Unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Estrella Torrez and seconded by Terah Chambers. Unanimously approved.

### **Public Comment – 3 minutes**

Shannon Torres, mother of 9<sup>th</sup> grader and 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Following up on email sent to the Board: Chromebooks should be used as an instructional tool under teacher supervision. Children report using technology up to an hour in a day, which takes away from social emotional learning and other instructional topics. Children do not need more time in front of screens. Glad the committee is thinking about these issues, these are hard topics.

Molly Spuzner, who works at an IT company. Glad that district will be looking at Securely data. Do not allow these devices in their home. No studies that say it helps learning. Unlimited down side, no upside. Asking parents to supervise is not fair to them. Asks that more parents consider the change.org petition that has been circulating in the community.

Maggie Gambill: Three kids in the district: ELHS, MMS, and Marble. Examples of technology misuse are all witnessed by parents. Able to access things that are not supported by their family. No reason why kids should get a Chromebook to take home and it isn't fair for parents to have to manage; district seems to allow kids to have access to as much technology time as they want. Negatives far outweigh the positives.

### **Meeting Topics/Discussion Items**

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- Thank you to district admin for handling of last week's swatting incident.
- District Technology use
  - Beginning with technology, Humberto Rojas (District Network Specialist) and Kathy Kowalski (District Media Specialist) – discussed recent efforts to continue conversations about technology access. Shared information about two filtering software: Palo Alto and Securely. Have also met with MMS and ELHS admin on several occasions to discuss their ongoing efforts and actions. Also discussed the balance between the tech aspect of this (and the controls available centrally) but it is controlled in the classroom as a curricular issue.
  - District Technology Director Palasty discussed two additions to the Securely platform already being used in the district to enhance the information we know about technology use and access: Securely Reveal will provide individual student usage rates. Also using Securely Home. An email to families will go out this week. Securely Home will provide parents an opportunity to see what kids are doing and have appropriate conversations. This is an add on product. They have turned off the “Collaboration” tool in Google. No sharing student to student at MMS. On the most recent professional development day, the district offered a session on Securely Classroom. Will offer another training for staff in the fall. Teachers are able to put additional controls on top of what the technology department uses as the baseline control.
  - Students have also been required to sign an Acceptable Use policy related to technology. This has been in place for years but was signed on paper. Now the signed form is on FinalForms. Starting next year, parents will also be required to sign the form.
  - Mr. Christian provided an overview of the Securely settings for the Committee.
    - Met with MMS admin to turn on additional controls. Also did the same with high school admin specific to the needs of that level.
    - Will be piloting Securely Classroom in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Also discussed the wide range of technology knowledge among our teachers. Some have training that was based on the use of technology as an instructional tool while others are not as savvy about technology and providing options to fit all instructional preferences will be important to support student learning across the curriculum.
    - In terms of broad instructional use: we (ELPS but in education more broadly) have come a long way with instructional use and differentiated instruction in terms of supporting advanced learners, multi-lingual learners, needing to re-teach for those who were absent or need another lesson. The desire is to provide teachers tools, not take them away. And making changes with appropriate time and support (and resources) is also important given the many competing expectations on teachers. This creates a challenge where we are not able to just “turn off” all technology; a balanced

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approach is needed. We are confident that many of the more problematic aspects of technology are not able to be accessed and we can continue to discuss the thoughtful use of technology in instruction as we move forward.

- As always, our two goals are to keep kids safe and also to keep kids learning and growing.
- Major instructional investments have been made in technology over the last few years: attendance, communication, etc are all grounded in technology use. Onus isn't on teachers alone; we need to work together.
  - Securely "paid" version costs \$1.00/student.
- Other Items
  - None

**Announcements**

- None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:24pm.