

The Charlton Heights Building Council met on Wednesday, January 19th, from 3:20 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

We discussed the 21st Century Framework and ways to improve instruction and student learning.

The Council had a great open discussion about the Framework and technology. Members feel that good teachers naturally teach all the areas on the framework through their various lessons, and that an area of focus for improvement is technology.

Some members feel that our district is in need of a technology teacher. A technology teacher could help staff members utilize new equipment such as Smart Boards and video conferencing. The district provides some wonderful equipment, and it would be helpful to have someone find and design lessons to incorporate into our existing curriculum. It is believed by Building Council members that technology should be woven into the fabric of our lessons rather than adding on more to teach.

Building Council members discussed that many times staff members are given technology, and it is not too long before a newer technology has been created.

Currently, our district only has guidelines for technology. Some Council members feel an evolving technology curriculum would be beneficial, and this suggestion will be given to the Technology Committee.

There was a discussion on how best to teach world and current events to students. Some teachers use Weekly Reader and Time for Kids, while other make connections with what is going on in the world to what they are teaching. It was discussed that some parents feel differently about class discussions of world tragedies, and that some children have anxiety disorders and become fearful when discussing topics and have nightmares.

Staff development with each other in buildings is necessary to improve technology skills amongst our staff members. It is believed that small groups work very well when learning about new topics, and that time to work together with grade levels to develop lessons is needed.

Building Council members would like to have an "In the News" segment at CH for morning announcements. The children would be responsible for reporting something going on within the building or with current events, and teachers or parents would help them edit the piece. The news segment should be related to the curriculum. Council members would like to explore this idea and plan for the best way to implement the morning news segment.