

FAQs from Curriculum, Instruction & Climate (CIC) committee meeting with BCPS, 1/19/2022
 Shared by request of BCPS

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS:	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS from CIC and BCPS RESPONSES (in BLUE):
<p>1. Technology:</p> <p>a. Teacher device replacement: We have heard rumors about the replacement of teacher/educator HP devices with Chromebooks – can BCPS clarify?</p> <p>b. Tech Liaisons & STAT Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech Liaisons no longer have some administrator rights and permissions to perform site-based technology tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-school tech support (such as Daly)? • STAT teachers were eliminated; used to serve as tech and instructional mentors • Tech liaisons are overwhelmed – this is an EDA position, on top of regular FT position responsibilities, supposedly duties can be completed outside of duty day – not the case 	<p>1. Technology - BCPS response (Jim Corns, DOIT) re: Technology:</p> <p>1.a. Replacement Devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will <u>not</u> use Chromebooks as their primary device (a rumor) • BCPS is pivoting to Chromebooks for high school students (like elementary and middle students) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provides access to online resources, ability to type and write ○ BCPS working on plan for more programs to include Adobe, etc. for CTE students, special programs • Replacement/Refresh of teacher Elitebooks not possible right now, complicated by <i>global supply chain issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ there aren't enough Elitebooks to replace ours ○ Options if replacement is required: BCPS is using some Revolves; also received shipment of new Elitebooks but they are working on system compatibility before they can be used • High break rate of staff Elitebooks and even higher student device break rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IMPORTANT: DOIT reminds us to please be careful with devices, they are doing their best to keep up with demand for repairs, <i>limited</i> replacements <p>b. Suggestions re: Tech Liaisons & STAT Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can BCPS restore admin rights to Tech Liaisons, and grant more rights and permissions to teachers? ▪ Make Tech Liaison a full-time (or 0.5) position ▪ Restore STAT teachers ▪ Post jobs for Tech Liaison and STAT Teacher and other open positions publicly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community would see, understand better <p>BCPS RESPONSE RE: Tech Liaisons & STAT Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After ransomware attack, admin rights will not be given to tech liaisons • BCPS understands the inconvenience and stress this may cause, but cyber security takes precedence over convenience now • CTE need – admin rights for dept chairs to install necessary software for lab settings • With all students using Chromebooks, there will be very little need for admin rights for tech liaisons

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS:	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS from CIC and BCPS RESPONSES (in BLUE):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-based tech support needs have only increased <p>c. Classroom Projector Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projectors are dying – 6-8 weeks to replace, extremely difficult teaching without a projector while waiting • requesting clarification on the plan to provide necessary classroom presentation technology <p>2. Social Studies Assessments (grades 6-8) in Curriculum:</p> <p>a. Assessments not well-aligned to curriculum – focus on one very narrow aspect of content</p> <p>b. Contain errors, at times not complete or fully accessible – graphics/visuals missing or blurred out – requiring major revision at times, adding to teacher workload</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BCPS efficiency study indicates to end the tech liaison program altogether ○ There is ongoing advocacy for professional tech support person in school buildings ○ Currently, technician ratio is 1 to 2600 devices (industry standard = approx. 1 to 70); <p>BCPS Response re: 1.c. Projectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until now, there has been a patchwork approach to classroom technology, no standard/plan for projectors • New Specific Structured Systemic Plan – contract bid for February BOE meeting for flat panel deployment for all classrooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mission/goal = to get 7000 flat panels, into every classroom in BCPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ already deployed to separate day schools, in each classroom ○ contract for \$12-15 million lease ○ on a rolling cart; it's not a Promethean board or projector ○ 7-10 year life expectancy, will be replaced systematically when lease expires ○ part of this bid is to remove all older AV equipment (old Promethean boards, current projection devices) ○ standardize classroom tech across the county <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may not fit perfectly in every room, will explore how to make it work ○ projection devices will be off the individual school's budget and shifted onto the County budget, part of Ed Specs <p>2. Assessments in Curriculum (SS, etc.):</p> <p>a. Conduct educator survey (TABCO or BCPS) regarding: (1) satisfaction with and ease of implementation of curriculum currently in use, and (2) impact on student outcomes as well as educator morale and retention</p> <p>BCPS Response re: 2. Assessment Alignment (question about Social Studies assessments):</p> <p>John Billingslea (Office of Social Studies):</p> <p>a. Alignment of assessments for 20-21 (virtual) and 21-22 (in-person) – BCPS decided to align to Standard 6, skills assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ focus is on skills development, preparing students for 8th grade MCAP and American Govt MCAP, evidence-based assessments ○ not content-focused

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS:	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS from CIC and BCPS RESPONSES (in BLUE):
<p>3. Tutoring/Coach Class Expectations: Please clarify what teachers are to provide for students in quarantine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Our understanding is that teachers can volunteer to tutor (and be paid hourly) outside of duty day or during planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not handled the same at all schools • Teachers feel pressure not to say “no” • One administrator told teachers that funding for tutoring was cut off after 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ utilizing the content to allow students to identify, analyze, synthesize evidence ○ teachers can supplement assessments with content-based questions ○ in the future, we may shift back to both skills-based and content-based assessments <p>Megan Shay re: Alignment of Assessments – including in other content areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is not to memorize facts, dates, etc. • Focus of standards is to provide evidence of skills, synthesizing across multiple sources, using analysis to process information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have to change mindset, shifting/changing purpose of assessment • Continuing to get message out to DCs and teachers re: shift to skills focus on assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept Chair mtgs – they talk about assessments every time, discuss issues <p>b. Errors in assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Billingslea looked through the Performance Matters SS assessments and current SS curriculum and could not find the problems noted; ○ Are teachers using correct folders/curriculum and assessments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be sure to use 21-22 curriculum folder and assessments; ○ Please give feedback when problems are encountered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ form at end of each assessment collects feedback; ○ but email is quickest way to communicate questions/problems (email Mr. Billingslea, an SS coordinator or a resource teacher) <p>3. Tutoring/Coach Class Expectations: Please share/clarify best practices with all school administrators, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school should have a designated tutoring liaison to coordinate • Tutoring does not have to be provided by the classroom teacher, could be another teacher • Liaison sets up teachers to hold tutoring sessions for the various grade levels or subjects, such as a second-grade teacher to meet with any second-grade student who needs tutoring <p>BCPS Response to 3. Tutoring/Coach Class Expectations (Megan Shay):</p>

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS:	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS from CIC and BCPS RESPONSES (in BLUE):
<p>12/24 – what is the status on that?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this a job/position that BCPS is posting to the public? <p>4. Substitute Crisis Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great news! Central Office staff are filling in as substitutes in schools. We are so grateful! • Long-term solution question: Is the difficult/cumbersome hiring process being streamlined at all? (fingerprinting, cost, payment method, etc.) Improvements in substitute pay, etc.? • Recent commentary in Baltimore Sun: https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-teacher-subs-pay-letter-20220111-tui7avmuxbhc7hsdhve66usuaa-story.html 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic guidelines for quarantined students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat as excused absences • Hold students harmless for original deadlines • Give opportunity to make-up based on number of days out, as with excused absence • Each school required to submit a school-based quarantine coaching/tutoring plan; there is no one central plan or guidance document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paid tutoring is not mandatory for any teacher ○ Not concurrent/hybrid instruction – as some parents have requested ○ Ask for your school’s plan <p>Sheila Harte-Dmitriev (TABCO): noted confusion around master agreement language “mutually agreed upon time” for coach class/tutoring; these circumstances are different</p> <p>BCPS Response to 4. Substitute Crisis Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Office staff really appreciate our gratitude re: their temp services operation and work • FYI: 2 out of 3 people in Central Offices are currently serving in daily sub rotation, are out in schools (including clerical staff and IT); so skeleton crews are running the central offices • some programs have been paused, in order to be in schools supporting class coverage, • Recruiting for subs and all positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources has new Chief • Working on innovative solutions, all may not be approved • Watch as budget process unfolds