

## **DVR Business Committee / IT Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2020

East Leyden High School, Little Theater

12:45 – 2:30 pm

### **I. Introductions**

*Michael Henson (Triton), Neil Posmer (Elmwood Park), John Cloud (Leyden), Tony Pecucci (Leyden), Patty Sarkady (RB)*

### **II. Marine Corps Scholarship Opportunity**

*The group discussed this opportunity. This opportunity only applies to children of either retired or active Marines. All agreed they would present this to the applicable students in their respective schools.*

### **III. Review of Leyden Cybersecurity Pilot Class (Feedback/Thoughts)**

*John Cloud and Leyden have been piloting Cybersecurity activities in their Computer Networking course. The course will change names to Cybersecurity in the 20/21 school year. John went through his proposed activities and garnered feedback from the group. All agreed that this was an area where students can gain skills/employment as the unemployment rate has been hovering near 0% for those with skills. John provided some positives and negatives of the activities he has conducted. Triton provided feedback as to how these efforts fit into their Cybersecurity program.*

### **IV. Connections Conference (?)/Other Conference Attendance Feedback**

*Patty reported that she had gone to the Careers Conference and IDEA Conference. For the Careers Conference, Patty mentioned that she gained some knowledge from Writing/Reading in CTE sessions and shared with the group. For the IDEA Conference, most of the sessions she attended were geared towards middle school teachers - but she was able to share a few tools she learned about that may be useful in Technology courses.*

*John Cloud attended the K12 NICE Conference in California, which is the only educator conference geared towards Cybersecurity. He reported that most attendees were either in their first year of teaching the curriculum or were just getting started at their schools. John reported that the workshops and sessions were extremely useful and relevant. John shared that recruiters from major corporations are looking for young talent in this area based upon "Capture the Flag" competitions held at schools across the nation.*

## **V. TechSavvy 2021 (March 21, 2020) @ Triton**

*This opportunity was shared, but at the time of the meeting, it was canceled/rescheduled. Leyden shared “Technology and Tea” event that was attempted which brought in 8th grade girls and their Mom/Aunt, etc. This event was canceled due to low participation.*

*Triton shared they are looking at summer camps for girls for coding, but having issues getting participation. Females are choosing not to participate.*

*The group agreed getting females involved in technology is an ongoing issue. The opportunities exist, but we are not getting the traction we would like.*

## **VII. Robotics Implementation Discussion/Coder Z**

*The group discussed robotics and how it intertwines with coding/programming. Michael shared that many of the robotic programs in Robot C, which is similar to the C language. One of the struggles with implementing robotics is that the kits have a “specific” language that is not generalized.*

*Schools have clubs that focus on robotics. Leyden has a robotics team in the Science Department that competes every year. The group will continue to discuss this as it really does not exist in any of the Business Departments.*

## **VIII. eSports Implementation/Discussion**

*Leyden will be piloting an eSports Club next year. The group discussed this as an opportunity to get more students involved in technology (specifically, video game design). Leyden will provide updates on how this process goes in the 20/21 school year.*

## **IX. Possible Addition of AR/VR to CTE Offerings/Discussion**

*Group discussed AR and VR. Triton has brought this into the classroom on a limited basis. Students have been working with it combined with the Unity Game Engine. It was agreed that Unity is a tough program for beginners, but most advanced students could pick up the language and functionality. Seeing as AR and VR has not been fully grasped by the programming community or society at large, this was seen as an Independent Project opportunity for advanced students at most schools.*

## **X. Discussion of Current Efforts/Future in Each Department**

*Triton shared that their Cybersecurity program is not thriving at this time. The classes are available to students, but the sequence, timing and availability of those classes does not make it easy for students to complete the path. They will be looking into this further.*

*Elmwood Park shared that they are starting a Computer Programming course next year and are hoping for good results.*

*The group discussed where beginner students should start coding and programming. Triton is currently starting with C++, which has proven to be an obstacle based on its complexity. Leyden starts students with Python. The group agreed that Python is a better starting language where students can be more successful.*

XI. **[Completion of DVR Exit Slip](#)**

XII. **Other?/Adjourn**

*Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.*