

District Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2007

1. Meeting Norms addressed...no changes
2. Blackboard changes
 - Meeting notes available on Blackboard, because conflicts happen and people have to miss meetings.
 - Issues: Changes:
 - Name Conventions changed – 3,000 students county wide Logins reflect school district and position in the district (admin, teacher, student, etc.) All password controls are student and ISD controlled. Jenn has rights to change at this point, but not teachers. Laurie Marshall at the ISD will reset passwords if you email her names of students.
 - No Local control – Jenn Varney is the local contact – email student or teacher information to her if problems arise. She has the forms to fill out. Turn around time is less than 24 hours.
 - Old logins are still available until ISD is sure that all classes and transitions are completed. Please begin using new logins immediately.
 - Tina Vansyckle is having problems with Digital Dropbox, Jenn Varney will investigate. Jenn Varney discovered that the Digital Dropbox is not available.
3. Playing DVD's on computers
 - Remember old conversations – Concerns about software limitations, copyright, and security issues.
 - Concerns – copyright, wear and tear on the computers, maintain additional software.
 - Address each situation on its own merits
 - At this time, teacher's will still not be able to play DVD's on computers
4. Blocking of Yahoo, Hotmail....
 - With blocking software, there is little wiggle room...can't block for teachers and not for students, etc. Software changes are continued to be looked at as new software is available. A need to block individual items instead of blocks of info is concern.
 - Conclusions: Investigate new options to Google, look at new options for blocking software for individual blocking options.
 - Teri Terry and Karen Anderson will put out Search engine options to Google.
5. Blogs and Podcasting
 - Need to create a policy as more people get involved with these new technologies. Handouts provided.
 - Create blog/podcasting policy in Blackboard
6. 8th grade technology information
 - Information from last year is posted in Blackboard

- Results were not as strong...could not disseminate and divide up data...special ed, band/choir, etc. Teri Terry, Jeff Haston, and Jenn Varney discussed the 7% drop in results
- Would like to pretest students for a baseline....will do, but it will not be computerized (bubble sheets, Blackboard, etc). ExamView will not be available from the ISD. May have to go back to bubble sheets since Blackboard has some limitations.
- 4th grade survey is in storage to be used later if needed.

7. Open Source conversation

- Keep the lines open...continue to keep it in our minds.
- \$37.00 per computer to have Microsoft Office and Operating System
- Look for teachers willing to try software to determine change possibilities. Look for implementation to take **years** not year. Start the conversations so that information is not shocking. Look for opportunities to provide trainings.
- When or if we make changes, we will have all pieces in place. No shock value with staff.
- Data on business using open source

8. Phonic Ear

Would we replace the entire unit?
 Any speaker issues with the district?
 How are they currently using them at each building
 Buy on an as needed basis, can we get a “bulk” price

9. Internet Safety

Need to find CPAC schedule to entertain idea of bringing in government presentation to K-8th grade students
 Talk with elementary principals and MS principals

10. Other

- ZEN Works – icons movement is still an issue. Julie Smith worked on script to stop movement. John Budd and Jeff Bennett will have to touch each machine, but can be done. Kids can use the recycle bin. Stop that please.
- Make sure computers are ready to go for beginning of year.
- Study Island, Plato, Data Director/Data Warehousing, Super3/Big6 making technology connections that improve curriculum has been increased and looking great
- Elementary looking for free software to manage and manipulate pictures. GIMP is available in labs...needs to be available on teacher stations.
- Technology Goals available and mission statement placed on top of handouts to remind us where we are going.

11. Eschool news video clips:

- Available on Blackboard

Video quality is not great, but content is very good.