

Community Technology Advisory Team

Summary February 27, 2007

Introductions: 10 minutes

Attending: Patty Bradley, Ward Bulkley, Robert Estice, Eric Goldsmith, Bryan Haviland, Michael Meyer, Keith Schlarb, Jacquie Schmittauer, Michael Siroskey, Steve Toeniskoetter, Jennifer Wene

Presentation: 30 minutes

Project Lead the Way presentation by Bryan Brown, TWHS and Todd Deisher, WKHS. The Board of Education approved Project Lead the Way last night as an additional offering to high school students. PLTW is a progression of courses establishing a pre-engineering path for students.

Presentation, with follow up questions from the group. PLTW was well received.

Review of Work in Progress: 20 minutes

Direction outline

Bond Levy Allocations (Draft)

TCO (In progress)

Data Center Consolidation (In progress)

Questions/discussion following presentation of the "Work in Progress". Some district employees have questioned the move to one platform. The decision was a recommendation by the Supt Task Force several years ago as a method to reduce operating/support cost in the technology area. Also, the availability of software, outside support, and ability to hire individuals with appropriate experience is determined by the market. The PC share of the market is at least 95% meaning more options are available for software and support.

Draft proposal of allocation of the bond dollars was covered as well as Total Cost of Ownership and centralization of data center costs. No concerns were listed.

An explanation of the federal erate program was provided to the group. Erate is a federal program which provides dollars to schools and public libraries based on free/reduced lunch numbers to offset telecommunication costs (phone and data). The funding for the program is from the collection of the universal service fee on everyone's phone bill. Worthington currently receives approximately 41% of its total telecommunication cost through the program.

Discussion: 30 minutes

We could be establishing a direction which will need to carry us for the next 10 years. Do we retain the safer direction of using software applications or do we leap to use of web applications to the extent possible, such as Thinkfree.com or gOffice.com.

- *Issue of connectivity could be an issue when going to the web. This could be reduced if the applications can be housed within the district*
- *Believe the teachers would find this move difficult to deal with. Especially elementary teachers will already be making a jump from Macs to PCs and some from AppleWorks to Word. Would it be as easy to move to a web app as Word 2007. The move to web apps is not believed to be an issue at the secondary.*
- *Move to web apps may be premature, likely less risk 3 yrs out*
- *Consider OpenOffice if cost is a concern*
- *Consideration of web apps is to reduce resources, cost and support*

Next meeting April 24, 2007 7:00pm WEC