

Community Advisory Technology Team

April 24th, 2007

Attending:

Eric Goldsmith, Keith Schlarb, Jacque Schmittauer, Michael Siroskey, Steve Toeniskoetter, Jennifer Wene, Paul Zhu

N-Computing Setup

Review of technology involved

N-Computing is a part of the solution being considered for the elementaries in conjunction with stand alone PCs. Thin client/Citrix solution was found to be ineffective for elementary applications. Concept appears to be similar to Linux operations that have been around for years.

Copy Center Savings

Over three years ago with the reduction of the Business Services Director, the responsibility of copiers, copy center, faxes, and phones was placed with Computer Services. Following a review of all copier and copy center leases and prices, a five year plan was implemented. Less than 2 years into the plan \$298,129 have been saved for buildings and departments when compared to the original 04-05 pricing.

Elementary Allocation Change

Elementary allocation was changed with the removal of the Innovation Grant process and those dollars reallocated per student to the elementaries. As planning proceeded the need for additional dollars at each elementary was identified. The Innovation Grant concept will be retained for future fund availability. (Handout)

Elementary Planning Spreadsheet

Review spreadsheet provided to elementaries for first draft of equipment plan. Meeting was held with elementaries on April 18th with information on elementary allocation, building tech plan, and equipment spreadsheet provided. Currently a tentative timeline is a draft equipment plan by May 30th, 2007, building tech plan by Jan 30th, 2008, final equipment plan Feb 28th, 2008, implementation begins Fall 2008. (Handout)

Suggestion made to have elementaries share draft equipment plans at the next meeting.

Bond Levy Funding Request

The first request for dollars from the bond levy will be reviewed with pricing information. Quotes were requested from Dell, Gateway, HP, and Lenovo The funding request is for the following equipment. 1- Project Lead the Way pre-engineering at each high school 2 – Psychologist, Speech, Occupational Therapists, administrative and elementary guidance laptops, and 3- Elementary pilot. The laptops range in age from 6 – 10 years. The decision was made to purchase all at the same time to gain the best price point and to allow Computer

Services to complete this project while planning is underway for the instructional portions of the bond levy expenditure. (Handout)

Request was reviewed and endorsed. Community members unable to attend will have the opportunity to respond by email.

Discussion: 30 minutes

What should happen to the current iMacs as updated equipment is made available? Some suggestions have included: retain in the classroom, retain only for specific SpEd software needs (if software replacement isn't possible), retain some for secondary, provide to families without computer, sell, otherwise recycle. Items which need to be considered are: additional support, maintenance/repair, further increase needs

Keeping both platforms is counter to the reason for switching to one platform, it will further increase support costs. Need to encourage users to move to new equipment and not having the old equipment would eliminate another obstacle. Keeping the old would further increase compatibility issues with operation and applications. Equipment should be removed from service.

Discussion: 20 minutes

What version of MS Office should we use 2002 or 2007? Office 2002 is currently in use on most PC equipment.

Office 2002:

Pro: Staying with this version would require significantly less training across the district for management and instructional users. We currently own many licenses. No change in equipment would be required for approximately 300 management users.

Con: Not current version, compatibility issues into next 5 plus years

Office 2007:

Pro: Newest version, compatibility into future years, load software during initial install

Con: Requires extensive training, Likely initial productivity drop, requires equipment purchase for management users which should occur in parallel with administrative laptops, requires license purchases. Adds to training burden in addition to platform switch.

No business reason for switch to Office 2007. Training and support for Office 2007 anticipated to be huge due the vastly different user interface. So few really use advanced features. Support desk would need to help convert if Office 2007 files are received from outside the district. One person using Office 2007 felt it was highly intuitive and easy to use, while also feeling there was no compelling reason to upgrade. The district will standardize on Office 2002 for now.

Next Meeting May 22nd , 2007 WEC Rm 112, 7:00pm