

Community Technology Advisory Team

Summary October 16, 2006 Meeting

Present: Patty Bradley, Ward Bulkley, Robert Estice, Eric Goldsmith, Bryan Haviland, Michael Meyer, Vicki Nichols, Keith Schlarb, Michael Siroskey, Jennifer Wene.

Next meeting: December 5th, 2006 Worthington Education Center, 7-9 pm

Following introductions groups discussed two questions and then reported back to the entire group. There was good discussion and we established some good information upon which to base next steps. We all anxiously await the outcome of the Nov. bond levy.

The group will continue meeting regardless of the levy outcome since there are a number of technology issues which deserve further input and discussion.

Discussion 1: What technology skills and understanding are businesses expecting of employees? What technology skills and understanding would a business expect from a high school graduate? Would there be a difference for a college graduate?

What type of activities would you expect to see students and teachers engaged in that would indicate these skills and understanding are being developed?

1. Technology is now a life skill, needed to even apply for jobs, online banking, purchasing, etc.
2. Students must have opportunity to use technology
3. Are we under gauging when we teach the basic technology skills?

Business expectations of a high school graduate:

- Knowledge and proficient use of the basic technology tools
- Word
 - Excel
 - Powerpoint
 - Email
 - Searches information/data/internet
- Understand validity of online sources
- Ability to interact and complete online/digital forms
- Keyboarding skills
- Understand/ behave based on ethic and legal appropriateness
- Know how to be safe in an online word
- Basic math
- Basic understanding that technology is the tool to get the job done
- Troubleshooting skills

College

- Science/Eng/math – assume students have strong skills in the use of technology
- Ability to find the tool needed to solve a problem
- Use multifunction calculators
- Have strong adaptability skills to quickly learn new programs
- Strong understanding of ethic/legal issues

Activities students and teachers expected to be engaged in:

- Basics of how computers work
- Practical, real-life application of technology
- Teach all Office applications and use them within the learning environment
- Students select appropriate technology to complete work, assignments and projects

Discussion 2: We have competing directions, requests, and opportunities while faced with the accountability to: maintain equality for students/staff at all grade levels, ensure network operation/security of data, provide support/training, cost effectively.

What are your thoughts on:

- *Open source software vs. Commercial software (ie. Open Office vs. Office)*
- *Computers vs. Peripheral devices (projectors, smart boards, cameras, scanners, printers)*
- *Per student vs. weighted funding (ie. Special Education, Gifted, ESL)*
- *Equity vs. PTA/grants/outside funding*

Mission statement highlights technology for student learning and communication with parents

Focus needs to be on use of technology to create better learning environment

Do detailed cost/requirements analysis (TCO) then pick what makes sense

Consider what learners have at home

Factor in what is used in the business world

Utilize web-based learning when possible

Help families have access (library, school @ night)

Use PC as a terminal for LAN

Consider speed in the approach

Students should have ability to access LAN @home

Strengthen link between home and school

Retain some PCs for particular classes/uses

Peripherals must meet multiple needs unless attached to specific class

Focus on computers, projectors, and maybe cameras

Open source may present additional training/support issues

Open source could be considered for a few appropriate areas

Open source may not be viable for use on current older equipment

Equity

- Provide a base amount to each building
- Allow outside groups to buy only peripherals
- Define clear and tight parameters for purchase and replacement of technology
- TCO must be considered
- Create a message, deliver in a clear way, stay on the message
- Consider learning outcome then apply resources to promote outcome
- Urge board policies regarding outside funding

Information provided before/at the meeting.

District Inventory

District Technology Vision/Mission

List of Team Members