Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Notes
Wednesday, January 22, 2014, District Office – Board Room

Welcome

NCCE – Northwest Council for Computer Education, March 12-14th
Update: A great opportunity to see how others in education are integrating technology into the classroom. There are a ton of great sessions offered each day.

Action: If you are interested in attending IT will pay for the registration. Please let Lindsey know which days you would be interested in attending.

Tablets
Update: The goal is for the first four learning wall schools, Brookdale, Central Avenue, Harvard and James Sales to get their tablets by the week prior to Mid-Winter Break. We are going to need a lot of help from the TAC group to accomplish this. We will be turning to the group to assist with creating and implementing the training of the tablets. We will roll the tablets much like with the laptops, the end user will be required to attend trainings.
All TAC members will be receiving one of which ever tablet is chosen.

Tablet Discussion:
Based off of your time with the tablets, if you had to choose one right now, which would it be?
Dell Venue – 4, Surface Pro – 7, Neutral – 3

General experience:
- The ability to use Anchor charts was great. Able to take a picture with the tablet of other teachers charts and project it directly for the students to see from the tablet. Old way was to take a picture, email it to yourself, save it to the computer and then project the picture.
- Classroom management: able to move around the classroom and lesson does not stop.
- Was able to hand the tablet to a student to take a test with such as Accelerated Reader. Students found it easier to take the tests on the tablet vs. a computer.
- The startup was very quick, you did not have to wait as long as you do with a laptop or desktop.
- Has an IPad in the classroom and it was as easy if not easier for the students to use
- The Dell Venue would auto dim at different times (there is a setting that will eliminate this issue, which will be a part of the trainings)

How was the connectivity to wireless?
- Had no issues
- Was easier to stay connected to the tablet on wireless than it is with the laptops
- Had an issue connecting to the projector but that was figured out and then it worked fine.

Engage Their Minds.

Accessories, what were your thoughts on the keyboard and stylus?
Dell Venue
- The keyboard connection was not that great, had to take the keyboard off and on several times.
- Only seemed to have one position for the stand and it was not in a good spot for all.
- Keyboard has to be completely flat on a surface to work, didn't work very well if you were trying to use it on a non-flat surface.
- There is a known defect with the Dell Venue keyboard, the magnets are too strong and the tablet will think that the keyboard cover has been shut when in fact it is not. This is what is causing the keyboard to stop working. Dell has already acknowledged the issue and corrected the problem.

Surface Pro
- Keyboard worked better
- Mouse on the keyboard was not as sensitive as the Dell Venue
- The kickstand was nice, like the two positions and the stability of it
- It was nice to have an interactive pointed stylus vs. the foam tip one (Dell Venue). It is easier to have the pointed tip for students work on handwriting.

How was the functionality of the tablet in the classroom?
- Think Central requires the ability to write on the screen and was not able to do that with either tablet.
- The Reflex program has a keyboard on the screen and that made it hard to see the rest of the screen on both tablets.

How do they feel/portability in the classroom?
Dell Venue
- Sleek
- Easy to grab and go
- It is not heavy but has some substance to it, so you know you have something in your hands.
- Does not want to slide around, has a good grip to it.

Surface Pro
- It is slick, does not have a lot of texture so it does slide around easy.
- Seems to scratch easily.

Training ideas
Update: We want each teacher to have a great experience with the tablet and be able to take full advantage of the tablet. We are looking at a training model that would be multi-stage and have a basic, novice, advanced and expert level. Trainings would not only include the technical side but also the instructional practice side. Recommendation is that everyone should be required to view the 7 minute video on Windows 8 in Atomic Learning as part / before attending training.

Action: Start thinking about what should be included in each of the training sessions. Whenever you find a really good video in Atomic Learning send either the name of the video or its number to Linda.