



Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 4:30-6pm | District Office – Board Room

Present: Allen Culp, Brad Pierce, Dietrich Baker, Emily Hunter, Linda DiGiorgi, Lindsey Smith, Mel Foster, Mike Marsh, Rosita Castellano, Sally Wheeler, Susan Templin

Absent: Brian Runnalls, Diane Blankenship, Jennifer Klassen, Lanna Duncan, Liza Klumpar, Susi Esson, Thomas Hoghaug

Microsoft Office

Microsoft has reached out to Liza and is offering to provide free Microsoft Office training to all staff. This could be in several forms such as on-site trainings, webinars. At the end of April there is a no school day, Liza is looking to set up an informational meeting with them to explore all of the options. Liza would like to take a member of the TAC to the meeting. If you are interested in attending please email Liza.

Learning Management System (LMS)

Linda shared a OneNote folder with the group and asked everyone to answer the two following questions:

Why have an LMS?

- Ability for students to collaborate
- Schedule and planner for students
- Direct and immediate feedback to parents on student progress
- Instant student/teacher feedback and collaboration
- Ability to award badges for various achievements
- Allow families to see and possibly be involved in the work
- Combine grades, attendance, behavior and activity in one spot
- Creates a place to post assignments – no lost work; instant feedback
- Foster an online community for collaborations – academic response to posts
- Students find it engaging
- Online discussions for students
- Can send specific assignments to specific groups of students (differentiate)
- Ability to collaborate instantly with a multitude of audiences, including in-district, across state, potentially nation or world.

What might be some reservations/reasons to not have an LMS?

- Additional teacher work load
- Monitoring for abusive student responses
- Families without internet access at home

Review of LMS resource websites

Next the group explored the following links that were shared with the group:

Capterra – Top LMS Software

<http://www.capterra.com/learning-management-system-software/>

Microsoft

[https://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Search/en-](https://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Search/en-US?query=learning%20management%20system&beta=0&rn=Education&rq=site:blogs.msdn.com/b/education/&ac=3)

[US?query=learning%20management%20system&beta=0&rn=Education&rq=site:blogs.msdn.com/b/education/&ac=3](https://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Search/en-US?query=learning%20management%20system&beta=0&rn=Education&rq=site:blogs.msdn.com/b/education/&ac=3)

Education Week – How to choose the right LMS

<http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2013/06/12/03lms-evaluation.h06.html>

e-Literate – Advice for small schools on the LMS selection process

<http://mfeldstein.com/advice-for-small-schools-on-the-lms-selection-process/>

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_management_system

The group was asked to create a notebook in the OneNote with their name to take notes.

Review of pilot and approval processes

Understand what a LMS does

Group Discussion

- Entire classroom is streamlined, including instruction, supplemental materials, communications, grading
- Brings everything you try to do in a classroom into one place
- A two way form of communications, can give and receive
- Communal – able to invite families into the classroom virtually
- Communication with parents.
 - Parents can set up how they would like to receive communications, by level as well.
 - Do they want emails, phone calls or text messages? By levels they can say for behavior they want one form of communication for reminders another.
- Attach links for students to watch
- Follow through, discussions, small groups, assignments

Identity our needs/solutions from an LMS

Group Discussion

- Combining an LMS and a notification system, one program for both needs
- Need a program that is going to grow with the students, K-12. Elementary students may not use the LMS much but as they get into secondary levels they will be familiar.
- Needs to be supplemental and an engaging site for students/parents
- Paper management
 - Less paper in the classroom and being sent home
 - Better able to track homework, students turn in the assignments through the LMS
 - Less time for teachers making copies
 - Cost savings for the district, less paper/toner being used.
- Easily be able to see if an assignment was turned in or not
- Book recommendations
- Preparing students for higher education – many colleges use a form of LMS
- Classroom blogs – student lead and or teacher
- LDAP and SSID integration

- Dashboard – quick access
 - A place that has grades, attendance, LMS all in one place
- Would need the ability to share with other staff.
 - Staff within grades/subjects be able to share work so that each person doesn't have to reinvent the wheel and can collaborate.
- Elementary –
 - Some of the benefits of an LMS would be:
 - Preparing students for SBAC and other online tests where they have to read an article on the computer and take notes digitally.
 - Notes, reminders, homework can be digital and parents/teachers do not have to rely on students to transport papers.
 - Practice typing skills

Other questions that have come up

- Is an LMS better for teachers only at some grade levels and teachers/students at other grades?
 - The discussion was that all grade levels of LMS can be beneficial for both the students and teachers. How much the program is used in different grade levels will vary.
- Is an LMS something that everyone has to use? Or can teachers opt to not use LMS
 - Several stated that if there was good training and support for staff after the training that they felt many would jump on board with an LMS.
- Have parents said anything about some teachers using an LMS and some not?
 - Dietrich stated that he has not found any parents/teachers talking about how some teachers are using an LMS vs other who are not.

LMS Comparison Sheet

Linda shared with the group a comparison list another school district used when looking at different LMS systems. The group was asked to cross off any items that they felt were not needed or add items that they felt should be added.

LMS Comparison

LMS Functions	
LDAP Integration	Training Materials
Skyward / SIS Integration	Implementation Support
Cloud Hosting	Video Trainings
Mobile App/Platform	University/College Use
Reporting/Usages	Canned Content/Resources
Parent Access	Reusable resources/courses
Student Access	Search Features
Multiple Content (doc, pdf, video, photo, etc)	Rating Features
Storage Quantity	Administrative Controls
Communication Features (text, email, social integration)	
Collaboration	
User Connections/Personal Networks	Discussions
Messaging/Notification	Group Workspaces
API Integration	
Turnitin.com	Follett - Destiny

Google Docs	
Academic Features	
Curriculum Management	Create Assignments/Events
Course Building	Create Tests/Quizzes
Pacing Guides	Dynamic Content Tools
Assessment Building	CCSS Integration/Support
Assessment Grading	Smarter Balance Integration/Support
Calendar	Sharable resources/content/files
Online Homework Drop boxes	

Form an Ad Hoc Committee

The plan going forward is to create an AD Hoc Committee to more closely define what is wanted out of an LMS. Work with staff to pilot a couple of LMS's to determine which one the committee wants to recommend to the district. The steps going forward will be for the AD Hoc to meet, bring their recommendations to the TAC, pilot the options, review the results of the pilot, present to the CAC, the final step will be School Board approval.

Mike proposed an idea to have Dietrich and Rosita switch systems, since Dietrich has used Edmodo and Rosita has used Schoology.

If you are interested in participating in the Ad Hoc Committee or know of a teacher who would be interested please let Linda know.

One of the items to keep in mind when you talk to other school districts about LMS programs that they may be using is to find out what the students access to technology is. Are they a one to one district, how many computers are in the classroom, what is the students/parents access to the internet in their district?

What is the timeline?

Linda will work on this. It will most likely be for next year as there are several steps that the LMS must go through.