



**Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 4:30-6pm | District Office – Board Room**

**Present:** Dr. Hewins, Brad Pierce, Brian Runnalls, Lanna Duncan, Linda DiGiorgi, Lindsey Smith, Liza Klumpar, Mike Marsh, Sally Wheeler, Thomas Hoghaug  
**Absent:** Allen Culp, Diane Blankenship, Dietrich Baker, Emily Hunter, Jennifer Klassen, Mel Foster, Rosita Castellano, Susan Templin

**Welcome**

**NCCE Conference Review**

Last week Mel, Liza, Linda, Brad and Brian attended NCCE. Mel, Liza, Brad and Brian did a presentation on WiDi in the classroom. The presentation ended up being very small as we were scheduled on the last day of the conference at the first time slot. The presentation went well and the group received a lot of good feedback.

The group attended many sessions including ones from the Renton school district on how to get around your firewall, which was actually on how they managed their firewall. Kent school districts presentation on their technology academy, which is their alternative school.

Linda attended several Microsoft sessions including ones on OneNote and Mix. She also attended several sessions on LMS.

**Franklin Pierce School Classroom Technology Video**

Showed the video that was put together to show at the NCCE presentation. Thank you to Sally Wheeler for helping us out with the video.

<https://vimeo.com/122292563>

**Microsoft Professional Development**

A common theme that is heard about the Microsoft Office Suite is that the programs are great but staff need more training on how to use them and integrate them into their daily use. Liza reached out to Microsoft and found out that they are able to assist the district with hands on training for free.

This week Brad, Linda, Liza and Mel went up to the Bellevue Microsoft store and met with our rep to go over what Microsoft can offer for professional development. Microsoft is able to offer us many types of trainings both for small groups or once they get a better idea of what we need they are willing to come to us to do trainings not only with our staff but with our students.

The Microsoft trainer has seven years of experience as a classroom teacher. Linda can add the Microsoft Instructors into the system, this way staff can receive clock hours for attending the trainings.

The next step in the process is to bring a group of 25 staff to the Bellevue Microsoft store to get an overview from Microsoft on what they can offer for training as well as for Microsoft to get a better understanding of what we need/want as a district. This will take place on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am. This is a non-school day and teachers will not need subs. We want to take 25 staff who will come back to the building excited and will talk up the program to their colleagues. We are opening up the opportunity to the TAC but can take up to 25 staff. If you know someone who would like to go please have them email Lindsey and the first 25 to respond will attend.

Lindsey will send out a separate email with all the details, please RSVP by Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend and if you would like to carpool. Please feel free to forward the invite but know that the first 25 to email Lindsey will be placed on the list.

One suggestion was to send out a survey to the staff to find out what staff are looking for in trainings and on what programs. This would help us to get a better idea of what the district staff are looking for and would attend.

### **Learning Management System (LMS)**

With the goal being to have an LMS in place for the next school year and looking at the dates for when groups meet that would need to approve the LMS here is the first working timeline.

2/25/15	Define our wants/needs
4/1/15	Narrow the field of potential LMS's
4/15/15	Start Pilot
5/6/15	Pilot Report
5/12/15	CAC Meets
5/20/15	Debrief and recommendations
6/16/15	School Board Meeting

The pilot time would be approximately 6 weeks and the idea would be to test out 2-3 LMS's during this time. Staff would try one for approximately 2 weeks and then switch.

After much discussion about the timeline and the ability to get accurate information four options came to light.

1. Pair up with 2-3 other staff, everyone tries a different LMS and they meet and compare notes on the LMS they are using. We could also create dummy accounts for 30 students and you could number your students and assign them a dummy account. This would allow teachers to try out the different LMS's without having to go through the set up process. This would also allow teachers to use the LMS in class without having any student data tied to the account. Students would be able to turn in work, answer questions and interact with the site giving both the teacher and the students an accurate feel for the LMS.
2. We could do what Renton School District did when they had an aggressive timeline. They came up with 40 points they were looking for in an LMS. Then four staff went through their top 5 LMS's and rated the 40 areas on a scale of 0-4. Once done they chose the LMS with the highest score.
3. We could extend the deployment/implementation to winter of next year. This would allow the ability to pilot the LMS's for the remainder of this school year and then get the CAC approval at the beginning of next year.

4. We could have our top 2-3 vendors come to the next TAC meeting and give a presentation. After the presentation we could choose one LMS to try for all of next year. This way more teachers could get the chance to pilot the LMS and we could get better data on how the LMS works.

Of the four options that were discussed, option four seemed to be the best for our timeline and needs. It was discussed to bring in 2-3 LMS vendors have them each do a 20 minute presentation and then have 10 minutes for questions at the end. We would have each vendor in the room separately so they could not see/hear the other presentation. After the presentations we would then have time as a group to debrief and pick one LMS to pilot. The pilot could begin this school year.

To assist in deciding who we should bring in for demos we looked at the Renton School District rubric and their results. The names of the LMS's have been hidden. Some of the 40 areas that they looked at do not apply to us but it gave a good sense of their overall experience. When each person reviewed the LMS they gave a score between 0 and 4. If they did not find that area/function in the LMS they gave a zero but you will not see the zero's on the rubrics. Linda did put in the zero's to see if this changed the scores at all and it did not, if anything it kept the order but increased the difference between each. One of the area that Renton did not rate was experience with the different LMS. They were looking specifically at features.

Based on the rubric here is how their LMS's placed

1. Option 1 – Score of 3.65
2. Option 4 – Score of 3.24
3. Option 2 – Score of 2.95
4. Option 5 – Score of 2.84
5. Option 3 – Score of 2.37

It is pretty clear from the scores who their top 3 were. Before we disclosed the names of the LMS it was announced that Edmodo was not one of the options that Renton looked at. Renton initially looked at Edmodo but they had some issues that ended up excluding them from the rubric. Renton's Director of Instructional Technology spoke to Edmodo and was told by the company that the district had a bunch of teachers who were already using Edmodo. When asked for a list, Edmodo refused to provide this. Renton wanted the ability to reach out to the teachers to get their feedback.

The other concern with Edmodo is the ownership of the data if the district terminate the contract. Edmond stated the historical will not be accessible. What does that mean for us? IT would not be able to back up any of the information, it would all be on Edmodo's cloud and we would not be able to access all data. The rest of the LMS's that Renton spoke to have no problem signing an agreement that stated that the school district was the owner of the work and student data.

Which LMS's did Renton look at and how did the place?

1. Option 1 – Canvas
2. Option 4 – Blackboard
3. Option 2 – Schoology
4. Option 5 – Haiku
5. Option 3 – Nimbus

Renton chose Canvas and have been doing a strategic roll out of the system since the fall. From what we have heard they are very happy with the LMS.

Which LMS vendors do we want to bring in?

All five of the ones that Renton looked at were discussed as well as Edmodo. Edmodo was eventually removed from the list due to the ownership of work and student data aspect. From Liza's position as the Director of IT, data retention is extremely important. Several others expressed the concern over not having ownership of their work or their student's data. Students would also not be able to go back and retrieve work they had done and submitted on the Edmodo if the agreement was terminated.

It was brought up that Blackboard is an ala cart LMS. You pay a base fee to use the basic LMS and then for each additional feature you want to incorporate such as ThinkCentral or Skyward the district would have to pay an additional fee. Another concern is the continuous support of the product.

After much discussion it was the group consensus that if we were not going to bring in Edmodo because of the data retention/ownership we would also not bring in Blackboard due to concerns mentioned above.

There was discussion if we should go to Renton's fourth choice but the question was asked if anyone had heard of Haiku prior to the TAC meeting and no one had. Also there is a significant difference in the scoring from the first and fourth sections.

The group's final decision was to invite both Canvas and Schoology to our next TAC meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> for a 20 minute presentation. We want to make sure that we have as many TAC members present as possible to hear the presentations. If someone is unable to attend the meeting it is suggested that they send someone in their place to hear the presentations. Everyone is also encouraged to bring their laptops to this meeting. Linda has received a list of about 5 staff outside of the TAC who are interested in piloting an LMS, those individuals will also be invited to the presentation. After the presentations the group will pick the LMS that we will pilot.