

## Technology Advisory Committee @ Board Room

November 18, 2015

4:30 – 6:00 PM

**Present:** Allen Culp, Bianca Ibarra, Brad Pierce, Brian Runnalls, Caitlyn Zwang, Clifford Aziz, Derrick Pete, Emilie Reynolds, Emily Hunter, Jamie Larson, Jennifer Verkuyl, Lana Duncan, Lillie Aziz, Linda DiGiorgi, Lindsey Smith, Liza Klumpar, Lynn Cawthra, Michelle Serdenia, Rosita Castellano, Sally Wheeler, Samuel Freeman, Seth Seastrum, Susan Esson, Tina Daniel, Dr. Frank Hewins, Lance Goodpaster

- **Superintendent's Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Hewins welcomed the TAC and reviewed the goals and the mission of the TAC. Technology permeates all aspects of our job. Each person who works in our district is dependent upon technology. As staff, we need to make sure that we are vigilant of the security and privacy of our staff and students.

- **Tech Levy Budget Overview**

Liza started during last year's TAC presenting an overview of Tech Levy funds and how the funds are allocated. E-Rate is an outreach program established by USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) that helps schools and libraries ensure that they can obtain high-speed Internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates. The Franklin Pierce School District has a 66% Free and Reduced meals, which allows us to receive a higher percentage of E-Rate. In the 2015-2016 school year so far we have received \$9,370 in E-Rate funds.

This is the second year of the current four-year Technology Levy. We receive funds throughout the year, but our biggest allotments come in April and October of each year. The first tech levy collection for the 2015-2016 school year was \$471,483. Between E-Rate and Tech Levy, we have received \$480,853 in funds this school year.

Tech Levy funds are used for things such as printers, projector bulbs, document cameras, RAM, laptop carts, networking supplies, new computers for students, wireless access points, technology for Administrators and Yogas for teachers. The Tech Levy funds also cover monthly services such as Fiber, VoIP (phones), cell phones, Internet Bandwidth & E911 and Keithley Middle School's IP Bell and Speakers. October's expenditures totaled \$88,672, and November's totaled \$181,884.

We are now officially a one to one Wireless Access Point district. Each classroom in the district has a Wireless Access Point. At all of the secondary schools, there are external access points that allow for WiFi access to students and SRO's in common areas.

One of our next projects is to start replacing classroom desktops with mobile labs. The benefit of the mobile labs is that teachers can check out the cart of 30 laptops and be able to have their whole class working on computers versus having a few computers in the classroom for

just a few students to use at time. Our goal is to eventually become a one to one district, James Sales is the pilot for this with the Apple ConnectEd grant. Before we can become a one to one technology district we need to focus on records retention and the amount of storage that is required to be able to support the technology.

- **Phase 1 and Phase 2 Learning Wall updates**

Learning walls consist of a projector screen, projector, document camera and integrated audio. Currently all eight elementary schools have learning walls.

The first phase learning wall schools have a stationary podium, wall plates with connections and the technology is wired. We learned from the first phase that teachers need to be untethered from the podiums. In the first phase teachers laptops need to be at the podium. In phase two we went completely wireless and have found that it would be beneficial to have a VGA adapter still in the room. Going into phase 3 which will be at the high schools we hope to have found a happy medium between the wired and wireless features providing the best of both worlds.

- **Canvas update**

The focus of the 2014-2015 TAC was to find a Learning Management System (LMS) to pilot for the 2015-2016 school year. After reviewing many systems the committee chose to pilot Canvas for this school year. Canvas is an online portal for communication between teachers, students and parents. It offers collaboration, delivery, feedback, organization and tracking systems for instructional content. Several districts around us are currently using or are in the adoption process of Canvas. Many of the surrounding higher education schools are also using Canvas for their LMS.

Canvas offers a user group conference a few times a year where staff from Canvas along with users from the surrounding area are able to get together receive training, share resources, troubleshoot and collaborate with others. The district would like to be able to host one of the user group conferences in the future so we would be able to send more of our staff to it.

Canvas offers a wide range of support and resources within the system. The Commons is very helpful as you are able to see ideas, lessons, tests and other material that staff within our district have shared as well as Canvas users around the world. There is also the Help function that allows you to submit a help ticket. With the support that we have purchased you should get a response within 24 hours. In help there are also numerous guides.

Since the district is piloting the Canvas this year, the TAC will be using it as well. Everyone in the TAC will be set up as students in the group, here we can have discussions, post resources, conduct online polls and post the agenda and meeting notes. After you accept your email invitation to the class you will be able to go to the district website and under "For Staff" there is a link to Canvas.

- **Three-minute teacher presentations**

The first opportunity for the group to use Canvas will be with the presentations. In the discussion section if each person can post some information about what they are presenting then everyone can review the information and communicate with each other. The TAC wants to be able to three items for the year so that at the end of the year we can present to Dr. Hewins, Mr. Goodpaster and Dr. Carey the recommendations of the TAC.

After a quick discussion, it was decided that in a couple of weeks we will do an online pole in Canvas based off of the presentations to see what our main focus for the year will be.

- **Online Forums (APEX, SVL, Odysseyware, Etc.) – Jamie Larson**
  - Exploring the use of online forms of learning. Programs mentioned Spokane Virtual Learning (SVL), APEX, Odysseyware (OW), Edgenuity and Canvas. Each has their own pros and cons as each is set up differently and the learning styles.
- **Plickers – Allen Culp**
  - Plickers are similar to the clicker technology that came out a few years ago. With this technology teachers are able to get instant feedback by providing each student with a card, the back of the card has letters A-D on it and correspond to a specific side of the shape on the front of the card. Teachers can ask a multiple choice question and the students hold up the card with the side that corresponds with their answer on top. The teacher then takes the smart device and scans the room, Plickers then tallies the responses.
- **James Sales Apple Grant; facilitate a smooth incorporation into the current district technical infrastructure – Caitlyn Zwang**
  - With James Sales receiving the Apple Grant and going to all Apple products many at James Sales are concerned about how the new technology is going to integrate into the current technology such as their Learning Walls. As well as how we are going to work with the one to one iPad technology for students.
  - Liza stated that there are a strategic team that is working with Apple very closely and there will much more information coming the weeks ahead. The current learning wall technology will not be going away and can be used with the Apple technology.
- **OneNote and Solo – Susi Esson**
  - Solo is a suite of 4 applications that are already available to all students and staff within the district. Currently SPED is the primary user of the program. Susie would like to make the suite more widely known as it would be beneficial to students who are struggling in specific areas
  - Co:Writer – word prediction, use of topic dictionaries
  - Write:Outload – speaking word processor. Has a bibliographer wizard, homonym checker, speaking dictionary and spell checking capabilities.
  - Draft:Builder – Graphic organizer/outline builder
  - Read:Outload – text reader and a simplified way of taking notes from documents/websites.
  - In Canvas discussion boards there are links to demos and 30-minute tutorials.

- **Use of Canvas – Rosita Castellano**
  - Canvas is a very user friendly platform for students. Teachers have the ability to incorporate media into lessons. There are a ton of built-in apps. IT is able to set up the classes as far as students go from Skyward. It is then up to the teachers to build the site. Besides the classes you can also create other courses for small groups, interns or committees. Recently used this for a workshop where she was able to pre-upload all of the information that was going to be needed and everyone had access to it prior to the workshop and then use it during the workshop.
- **Classroom Website & PowerPoint clicker – Tina Daniel**
  - Classroom website are a great way to communicate with parents and students. Tina has a link to her email and parents are able to easily email her if they have questions about the homework that was assigned or anything else.
  - PowerPoint clicker – Tina has been using PowerPoint clickers in her student lead conferences. She scans her students work and places it in PowerPoints for them. They then go in and add the information and get to use the click during the presentation to the parents. They get very excited about using the clicker.
- **How to make things more user-friendly – Lana Duncan**
  - The district has done a great job of rolling new technology and software out, now it is time to dive in and own it. Wants to be able to learn more about the programs that have already gone through the approval process. An example is Solo, she was not aware it was available to all and can think of some students who could benefit from the use of it. This would help with classroom management as well because you can be anywhere and still point to items on the screen.
- **Infrared pointers – Emily Hunter**
  - Coming from a phase one Learning Wall school where there is the fixed podium it would be nice to have infrared pointers in order to be able to move around the room more. She finds frequently she needs to be in one spot of the room but also
- **Powtoon.com, Storyboards and Voki.com – Jennifer Verkuyl**
  - Powtoon.com – A tool for building short videos. Audio can be added for projects and presentation.
  - Storyboardthat.com – The ability to create a structured series of boards that can have text added to the tiles as well.
  - Voki.com – Teachers and students are able to create a speaking character. The characters are able to speak in many languages. Voki can help students with spelling, if the word is not spelled correctly it will not say the word out loud.
- **Code.org and Scratch – Emilie Reynolds**
  - Code.org is a way to expand access to computer science, provides curriculum and professional development. They also offer an “Hour of Code” program that allows students to get their feet wet in basic coding using a block-based coding.

- Scratch – users are able to program their own interactive stories, games and animations.
- **PADLET – Derrick Pete**
  - PADLET is a virtual wall/collaborative space for students to upload their information. It can be used as a discussion board. There are also discussion forums. This is also another way to communicate with parents.
- **Tablets – Samuel Freeman**
  - Students at Washington High School would like the ability to use tablets/iPads as they are the current technology as well as for the portability of them. Students would be able to work on a document anywhere and not have to worry about if it is available or if there is a computer available in the room to use. Tablets are also more engaging to the students and would make using Canvas easier.
- **Google Docs – Michelle Serdenia**
  - With Google Docs you are able to access your information from anywhere. There are also collaboration tools, ability to receive feedback, it auto saves your work there are forms that can be created. You can also do surveys similar to Survey Monkey. There is also programs similar to OneNote.
- **Closing**

Thank you for all of the great presentations. Don't forget to go into the Canvas discussion board and upload information about your topic you presented today. Take some time over the next week and review posts, feel free to comment and have discussions about the topics. Information Technology will be creating a poll in the next few weeks to decide what the TAC's area of focus will be.

At the next meeting we will also be going over the Technology Approval process and the District Approved Software list.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 4:30-6pm in the Corrigan Room at Franklin Pierce High School (11002 18<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Tacoma, WA 98445)