

Renton Technology Coordinating Council (RTCC)

Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2021

ATTENDING

Ellen Dorr, Gloria Hodge, Rahman Abdul, Kalisa Amparo, Dr. Bob Ettinger, Colin Falk, Barbara Folmer, Tom Howley, Shari Mann, Keith Peck, Gioia Pitts, Genevieve Ramsey, Kevin Smith, Kevin Takisaki, and Kerrie Thornton

AGENDA

- [Welcome and Introductions](#)
- [Celebrations and Sharing](#)
- [Updates and Feedback](#)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Connector

Ellen asked everyone to introduce themselves by sharing their name, role, and one small (or big) thing bringing them joy. See [addendum](#) for responses.


MINUTES REVIEW

Ellen gave time for the council to review the minutes and asked for questions or clarifications. There were none, but the council expressed their compliments.

CELEBRATIONS & SHARING

In advance of the meeting, Ellen requested the council members gather some good news to share. They created slides and gave a short presentation on positive things happening in their schools or departments.

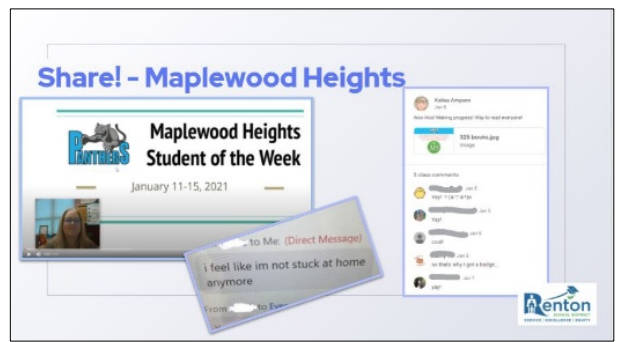
Celebration Slides

Information	Image of Slide
<p>Rahman Abdul, <i>Director of IT Customer Service</i></p> <p>In partnership with Business Services, the Customer Service team has been deploying Seek and Scan devices at the building entrances of all district sites. They are designed to check people’s temperature when they enter the building as a safety measure to prepare for school re-opening.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px;"> <p style="color: #0070C0; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Customer Service: Health Screening</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Seek and Scan thermal imaging systems deployment</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 20px;">In partnership with Business Services, Technology Services has been deploying Seek and Scan devices to each school and building to help keep our staff and students safe.</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> </div>

Kalisa Amparo, 4th Grade Teacher, Maplewood Heights Elementary

The Principal and Vice Principal at Maplewood started doing “Students of the Week”, where they hand deliver certificates to students at their homes, take a picture, and then create a short video for teachers to share with students on Fridays. These videos have helped kids feel connected. One student said “I feel like I’m not stuck at home anymore” in response.

Maplewood started using “Epic!”, which sends badges for the number of books the students have read. Kalisa posts the badges in her Google Classroom and the kids get really excited about it. It is great to see their enthusiasm over what they have accomplished.



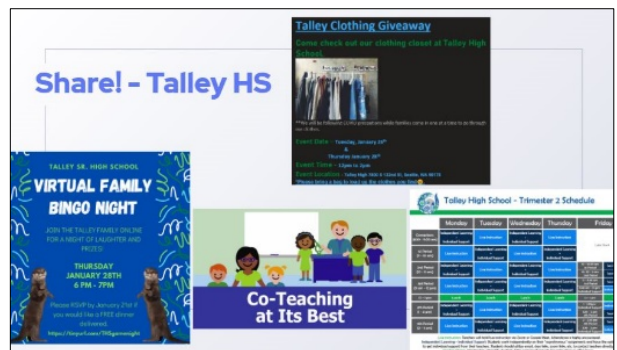
Kevin Takisaki, Assistant Principal, Talley High School

The Attendance Specialist at Talley, in collaboration with Michele Starkey, held a “Talley Clothing Giveaway” to help cover basic needs of students. The thinking behind the event was that by covering students’ basic needs, the students would be better able to engage with instruction.

Talley has a new teacher driven schedule which gives students some options for when they are engaging live vs. working independently.

An ELA and Social Studies teacher have partnered together to try co-teaching in the virtual environment with a focus on social justice. They have brought in speakers to present to the kids and it has been going very well.

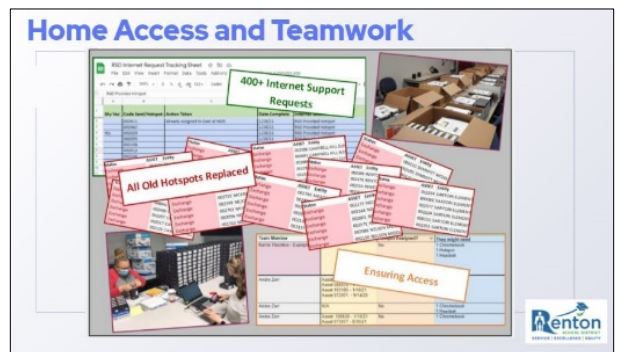
Talley held a “Family Virtual Bingo Night”. They played bingo with families, gave out prizes, and shared information / resources about shelter, clothing, food, mental health, etc.



Ellen Dorr, Chief Technology Officer
Kerrie Thornton, Administrative Assistant to CTO

Thanks to the generous donations from the Renton Schools Foundation, Amazon, InvestED, and the Circle of Giving Fund, Technology Services was able to procure enough new hotspots to swap out all the old devices that weren’t meeting student needs in the remote learning model. In addition, the team has been fulfilling many new requests and assisting with the OSPI options available.

In December 2020, one of the district CBO partners gathered a comprehensive list from community-based organizations across the district, of families who reported having unmet



technology needs. Technology Services reviewed the list and were able to identify 45 families with potential need. A small, cross-departmental team then contacted those families to follow-up. In some cases, the team found that the family had everything they needed. In others, families identified additional or replacement items they needed to support their students with in-home learning. Armed with that information, the Technology Services team, in partnership with schools, were able to fulfill all the requests.

Kevin Smith, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director

For the past three years, CTE has remodeled all the Home Economics rooms into culinary spaces. Now they are working on adding networking labs. The picture on the left is the Hazen lab. The lab doesn't look like much now, because the students will be putting it together as part of their learning when we return in person. The image on the right are plans for the RHS lab.

Kevin highlighted that one of the cool things about CTE is that they get to work with Industry professionals. Tom Howley, the Technology Services Infrastructure Director, joined the CTE team on site visits of existing networking labs. Afterward, CTE worked with the Technology Team to spec out and purchase everything Technology Services would purchase if they were installing a new networking lab. As a result, these labs will be some of the most state-of-the-art networking labs in the state. Renton High School will be the next lab built, and then Lindbergh next year.



Keith Peck, Computer Science Teacher, Hazen High School

Last year, Keith had a student who took Networking first trimester and enjoyed it so much he took Networking as an independent study second trimester. Now, this student has completed his CompTIA Network certification. He is the first student to get it.



Ellen Dorr, Chief Technology Officer

Ellen congratulated Kevin Smith for being named the [Washington Association of Marketing Educators](#), Administrator of the Year!



Gioia Pitts, Principal, Dimmitt Middle School

Dimmitt has been doing some great projects using systems they have set up with their Help Desk.

The ASB put on the [Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration](#). It was entirely produced by students (present and past) and they did a wonderful job. The kids researched people who they thought were/are impacted by Martin Luther King Jr. and gave presentations about them.

Dimmitt will be holding an assembly every Friday for the rest of Black History Month. The students interviewed black members of the community who have been an inspiration to them, and this will be the topic of the first assembly. They are bringing in Erin Jones to speak, and Brave will also be doing an assembly. Gioia is proud and impressed by the work the students have done to make this all happen.



Genevieve Ramsey, Assistant Principal, Tiffany Park Elementary

Shari Mann, Librarian, Tiffany Park Elementary

Genevieve and Shari highlighted ways their staff has been able to continue important classroom traditions in a virtual learning environment and have created new ones to meet current needs.

They figured out how to do their regular "Feelings Check-Ins" digitally by having students access their own "feelings slide" via link. Every day, students have an opportunity to go to their slide, update how they are feeling, and share with their class if they would like to.

Tiffany Park started using Padlet to have collaborative conversations, and highlighted the [I Have a Dream](#) padlet Shari created for MLK week.



For Black History Month they did engaging and visually stimulating lessons for “BLM at School Week”.

Previously, they had an Art Docent in their school community through the PTA that they wanted to see thrive despite the limitations of remote learning. As a result, they have virtual art lessons each month and students have an opportunity to upload and share their work via padlet.

They also shared some new things they have done, such as expanding awareness of voices and representation in literature by having students read books aloud on video and share them with their school community. It is a great opportunity for students to identify stories where they can see themselves in the characters and share with others.

Dr. Bob Ettinger, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

It can be challenging for students to show their work beyond writing, such as constructing a model or using a diagram. So, the STEM team created a [toolkit](#) that shares ideas for ways students can demonstrate their learning, and instructional details on how to make that happen.

Bob E. (on behalf of district STEM team)

Instructional Practice: Making Student Work (Beyond Writing) Visible

Why This Matters:

- So much of math and science (and other subjects!) depends on students **developing and using models, diagrams, equations, etc.** and is difficult to capture in writing via Zoom chat
- If teachers can see students modeling and thinking in real time, it allows for:
 - In-the-moment adjustments based on student misconceptions (formative assessment)
 - Sharing students' work and thinking with each other as examples and counter-examples
 - Increased accountability for students showing their thinking
 - Making meaning of concepts and ideas that are visual

Digital Whiteboard Tools <small>(students draw with stylus/finger)</small>	Video Sharing Tools <small>(students upload videos of work)</small>	Math manipulatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Jamboard Kami Microsoft Whiteboard Whiteboard.fi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kami Flipgrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges Math apps (elementary) Desmos

Full toolkit available at [Making Student Work Visible](#)

Colin Falk, Assistant Principal, Lindbergh High School

This year, Lindbergh is focusing a lot on communication.

- They have designated Fridays as specific calling days for teachers to reach out to students who have not been able to come to class.
- They have call teams twice a week to reach out to families if students are not engaging in class, to see what assistance can be given.
- They have done a campaign to try to get every family an email address, and they are down to only 4 families that do not have one.
- They send a weekly email & video out to students, as well as hold a weekly Zoom Q&A for parents.
- They are also trying to align all their Social Media accounts, so that everything can be managed in one primary location and the information across platforms is consistent.


Lindbergh HS




COMMUNICATION









Council Discussion

After the presentation, Ellen posed the following questions to the council to discuss in breakout rooms.

- What are some common themes or trends you heard?

- What new ideas do you have for things you can try at your school/department?

Afterward, the council shared their thoughts and ideas.

- **Shari Mann:** There are many opportunities for kids to take ownership of their own learning and to feel like they are part of a community. In addition, there are more opportunities for parents to be involved and participate in what their kids are learning.
- **Kevin Smith:** It is amazing to hear about the collaborative work taking place, how people are using technology to improve communication, and all the ways schools/teams are working to meet the needs of each of our students.
- **Kevin Takisaki:** Across the district we are seeing enhanced communication, new approaches to instruction, and community building. It is cool to see how we are adapting and learning what we can do with the tools at our fingertips.
- **Ellen Dorr:** Ellen highlighted the framing presented by Tiffany Park: What was powerful for students in the classroom and how can it be translated online? It is important to consider what is good about both ways. We are now able to use more modalities, so as we move forward and eventually transition back to the classroom, we will want to keep thinking about what offers the most inclusion, where the most accessibility is, and how we make sure all students/families are supported, connected, and involved. It is really positive to see how people have made such huge changes in practice and are being thoughtful about how they will keep moving that forward.

UPDATES AND FEEDBACK

Technology Plan Annual Update

Bob and Ellen presented the [Technology Plan Annual Update](#) to the Board. Some of the topics they highlighted were:

- **Student Work:** They shared an example of project-based learning student work from Hazen High School.
- **Report for Resolution Agreement:** They shared that Technology Services is preparing to submit a report Office of Civil Rights regarding the work the district has done toward improving accessibility on the website.
- **Digital Access Review:** They reviewed and discussed the list of families who reported having unmet technology needs provided by one of our CBO partners.

Teacher and Leadership Laptop Pilot

Technology Services is looking into new devices to replace teacher and leadership computers that are approaching the end of their life cycle. For the new devices, the models under consideration were selected with the following criteria in mind:

- light weight
- good battery life
- good audio and video functionality
- fast charging technology

The two models Technology Services will be testing are the [ThinkPad X1 Carbon Gen 8 Laptop](#) and the [Dell XPS 13 Laptop](#). The sample devices are expected to arrive at the end of the month. In the past, they have been able to set up devices in one location for people to explore and review. Since that review model is not an option this year, Technology Services is looking for volunteers to participate in a pilot of the devices. Those who are interacting with students and staff frequently will be able to give valuable feedback regarding how well these devices function for our current and future needs. People can sign up by completing the [New Teacher/Admin Laptop Testing, Winter 2021](#) form.

Next Steps

- A small pilot group will be formed for laptop testing based on form results.
- In the next meeting, Technology Services will share an update regarding the Promethean Panel installation.
- Before the next meeting, Ellen will follow up with school-based people regarding how to get input from students and families to see how we can provide further support and meet any outstanding need.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting Adjourned 5:26pm

ADDENDUM

Ellen Dorr, *Chief Technology Officer*

One thing that is bringing Ellen joy is how resilient and solution-oriented people have been.

Gioia Pitts, *Principal, Dimmitt Middle School*

One thing that brought Gioia joy recently, is how her students were able to advocate for themselves and take care of business when the school was experiencing issues with Canvas. The students were proactive by reaching out for more information and then waited for further instruction.

Dr. Bob Ettinger, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

There are many things that bring Bob joy. He shared that he had just left a meeting with 5th grade teachers where they were planning how to teach Engineering Design remotely, and Bob is proud of the great structures and resources they have built to support that process.

Genevieve Ramsey, *Assistant Principal, Tiffany Park Elementary*

One thing that brings Genevieve joy (professionally) is being able to witness how effective and critical her coaches are in a remote learning model. The school brought on a math coach about a year ago, and over time the coach has built strong relationships and become invaluable to the rest of the team. She has lifted the level of rigor and helped to shift instructional models. On a personal level, Genevieve finds joy in taking long river walks in the rain on the weekends.

Kalisa Amparo, *4th Grade Teacher, Maplewood Heights Elementary*

One thing that brings Kalisa joy is seeing the growth that has taken place in her students' management of online school. She can now give an assignment and the students are able to independently open it and get started. It is a big time-saver and a relief that they can get to the work without having to move into breakout rooms to get further instruction on how to access it.

Tom Howley, *Infrastructure Director*

Tom shared that he was able to take last week off and he found joy in that time to unwind. During that time, he found the old VHS and movie reel tapes he had been collecting over the course of his life. He sent them out for duplication and has already received some of them back. He was able to watch old footage from graduations and see his wife's children when they were very young.

Kevin Takisaki, *Assistant Principal, Talley High School*

One thing bringing Kevin joy is that he and his wife are expecting their first child!

Kevin Smith, *Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director*

What brings Kevin joy is being able to connect students to their desired career pathways and treating all those pathways with equal weight and importance.

Keith Peck, *Computer Science Teacher, Hazen High School*

What brings Keith joy is playing “Pokeman Go” while he walks to and from work.

Gloria Hodge, *Vice President, Board of Directors*

One of the things bringing Gloria joy (and excitement) is that she is interviewing a Talley High School graduate. When Gloria shared with the candidate her connection to Talley, the candidate said that deciding to go to Talley was one of the best high school decisions she ever made.

Barbara Folmer, *District Website Coordinator*

One thing that is bringing Barbara joy is that the Director of Community Relations recently published a video and it included perfect captions (*part of website accessibility*).

Rahman Abdul, *Director of IT Customer Service*

What brings Rahman joy is being healthy, being part of an amazing IT team, and supporting students and staff.

Kerrie Thornton, *Administrative Assistant to CTO*

What brought Kerrie joy recently was being contacted by a teacher to let her know that students in the Renton School District had found poems she wrote many years ago and wanted to use them in their MLK assembly. It made her happy to know that the words she wrote back then still resonated with students now, and that they wanted to use them in such a powerful way.