

Renton Technology Coordinating Council (RTCC)

Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2021

ATTENDING

Dr. Ellen Dorr (Chair), Rahman Abdul, Dr. Bob Ettinger, Cathleen Gonzales, Jay Gray, Kevin Smith, Kevin Takisaki, and Kerrie Thornton

AGENDA

- [Connector](#)
- [Reflection](#)
- [Updates](#)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ellen welcomed the council members and read the agenda. She asked everyone to introduce themselves by giving their name, role, and the best experience they have had since the start of the school year. See [addendum](#) for individual responses.

Ellen reminded the council: The work of the Technology Services (TS) department is rooted in the District Core Values and in supporting the Strategic Framework.

- **Service:** Providing a strong foundation.
 - We will be 1:1 at all schools this year once the iPad carts have arrived.
- **Excellence:** Improving systems and support.
- **Equity:** Right support for each and every learner.

MINUTES REVIEW

Ellen gave time for the council members to review the [May 2021](#) minutes and asked for questions, clarifications, or corrections. She noted that we will return to the “Lessons from the Year” section in the next part of the meeting.

Kerrie asked Bob if the third point in the “Group 4 Feedback” section was correctly summarized in the minutes. Bob confirmed that it was.

REFLECTION

The 2020-21 school year was a learning process for everyone. In the last meeting, the council members spent time reflecting on what they had learned during the year and what they would want to pull through into the next. Ellen invited the council members to return to those reflections and identify:

- What trends do you see? What stands out?
- What ideas / actions have been pulled through into the 2021-22 school year?

Ellen shared an example. This year, the district will be doing all their “Curriculum Nights” virtually. While that decision was partially a pragmatic one in consideration of current restrictions, it was also because we learned in the last year that virtual events increased access and allowed more engagement from families. Therefore, making the curriculum night virtual was one way we pulled through a lesson from the 2020-21 school year.

The council members were put in breakout rooms to discuss.

Lessons from 2020-21 Review and 2021-22 Implications

- **Kerrie:** There has been a shift in mentality. As Kevin T. mentioned in the last meeting, we learned that we don't have to have a perfect plan in order to move forward, because we have become more adaptable. Last year, people had to be flexible and adjust quickly out of necessity. As a result, people are more flexible and less resistant when things don't go as planned. We are witnessing that a lot in Technology Services in the way people respond to their technology issues.
- **Kevin S:** There is a consensus that the use of Zoom will continue to be useful beyond remote learning. For some students, it was a way they can safely communicate their needs and engage with teachers. We can continue to use it in that way. In addition, Zoom is a good resource for family engagement. The use of Zoom seemed to be an overall highlight from all the groups.
- **Ellen:** There was a comment regarding instructional practice and how people found more opportunities and modalities for students to demonstrate their learning. We expect a lot of that will pull through because it is so effective. In our group, Bob noted that once people start learning and using new practices/tools, they are more likely to do so in the future. When there are more school-based people in the meeting, I want to follow-up on that; find out what is still working, what is not, and what supports are needed.
 - **Bob:** Kevin, since you are the only person here tonight that works at a school building, have you noticed people using new tools and practices that they weren't using pre-pandemic?
 - **Kevin T:** Yes! The social emotional learning (SEL) work that became very important during remote learning was implemented at the start of this year. On the teaching side, people are definitely using more tools that allow students to represent themselves and their learning in a plethora of ways.
 - **Jay:** Are there any specific tools or types of tools you see used more often now than in pre-pandemic?
 - **Kevin T.:** The one that I see most frequently now is Jamboard. Talley uses it a lot. Some classrooms use more video tools: have students record their work or narrate what they are doing.
 - **Ellen:** It seems like the kinds of the tools and practices that are really working for Talley are ones where students have the opportunity to use their voice and communicate in creative ways.

UPDATES

RTCC Application

Last year, one of the things RTCC discussed was increasing council membership. Ellen drafted a communication to call for interested candidates, with a particular goal to reach people in the following positions (none of which currently serve on the council):

- Elementary School Educator
- Middle School Educator
- Middle School Administrator
- Paraeducator

Ellen noted that she had previously planned to reach out for new members prior to the first meeting but was hesitant to do so while everyone was busy getting ready and starting the school year. Now, she will move forward with sending out the notification.

Upcoming Technology Levy

Ellen reminded the council that the district has a technology levy coming up and thinks it would be helpful to find ways to communicate to the community how the technology levy supports students and their learning. She was inspired by an experience with Dr. Ivan Duran, *Chief of Acceleration and Recovery*, who recently visited a McKnight CTE classroom and was excited about what he had seen there. He shared with her what the class was doing, the real-world implications of the work, the technology they were using, etc. Ellen realized these are the kinds of stories that people should know to

help them understand the importance of the technology levy. She shared a submission link where people can put in story ideas and give the name of a person who can provide more details about it. She invited the council members to share some stories or story ideas via the link.

NEXT STEPS

The next meeting will be November 30, 2021. Prior to the meeting, Ellen will:

- share the [Technology Levy Stories](#) survey with the council members who were absent today and at RTCC meetings moving forward so that people can add stories throughout the year.
- work on bringing in new RTCC members to ensure a wide range of voice, experience, and feedback on the council.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

ADDENDUM

<p>Dr. Ellen Dorr <i>Chief of Technology & Strategic Initiatives</i></p>	<p>One of Ellen’s favorite experiences was visiting elementary schools during the first couple days. Everyone was so excited to be back, and it was great to feel that energy.</p>
<p>Rahman Abdul <i>Executive Director of Technology Services</i></p>	<p>Rahman noted that in the past year, when he has visited schools, it has been so quiet. So, it was nice to see kids happily picking up devices during distribution.</p>
<p>Dr. Bob Ettinger <i>Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment</i></p>	<p>Bob has also loved being in schools, but his favorite experience was New Hire Orientation. It was exciting to have a lot of adults in one place and to feel the energy of all the new people. He was very proud of the way his team was able to differentiate the experience for different groups. He added that he recently got to attend a New Teacher Academy session and was in a breakout room with two new teachers who recently got displaced. He commented that both of them were positive and found the silver lining in the situation, saying things like “at least I am learning flexibility”, “this is the pathway I want” and “It’s a career, not a job”.</p>
<p>Cathleen Gonzales <i>Customer Service Manager</i></p>	<p>The best experience for Cathy was going out to the buildings and seeing all the kids. They are so happy to be at school with their friends. It has been just awesome to have them back.</p>
<p>Jay Gray <i>Infrastructure Manager</i></p>	<p>Jay noted there is some obvious excitement for the start of the school year. He is happy that school started smoothly with no big technical difficulties. He commented how refreshing it is to see kids back in the hallways at school.</p>
<p>Kevin Smith <i>Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director</i></p>	<p>The most exciting part of the start of year for Kevin is that there have been a few days that have almost felt normal again (like before COVID-19). It feels good to have people back in the office and to be in community with each other.</p>
<p>Kevin Takisaki <i>Assistant Principal, Talley High School</i></p>	<p>Kevin’s favorite experience this year was getting to witness the social/emotional growth in one of his students. In the past, when this student was having a difficult time, she would express her feelings/reactions in an “exuberant” way. However, recently when she found herself up against a challenging experience, she expressed herself calmly. She walked herself through the challenge by naming what the obstacle was, determining why it was challenging, and identifying her emotional response. She did all this work independently and then requested a restorative solution. It was very cool to see.</p>
<p>Kerrie Thornton <i>Administrative Assistant</i></p>	<p>Kerrie’s favorite experience at the start of the school year was New Hire Orientation. It was fun to meet some of the new teachers and feel the buzz of anticipation in the room.</p>