Renton Technology Coordinating Council (RTCC)
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2021

ATTENDING
Dr. Ellen Dorr (Chair), Alisa Louie, Rahman Abdul, Dr. Bob Ettinger, Juanita Galloway, Jay Gray, Barbara Folmer, Tyann Nguyen, Keith Peck, Genevieve Ramsey, Kevin Smith, Kevin Takisaki, and Kerrie Thornton

AGENDA
- Welcome and Introductions
- Reflection: Lessons Learned
- Updates: Technology Plan Annual Update

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Ellen welcomed the council and went over the agenda. She gave a brief introduction of the newest members of RTCC.

- Juanita Galloway, Community Member
- Amy Frey, Assistant Principal, Dimmitt Middle School
- Tyann Nguyen, Paraeducator, Dimmitt Middle School

Ellen asked everyone to introduce themselves by sharing their name, role, and something they enjoyed during the recent break. She noted that responses did not need to be related to technology, emphasizing the importance of connecting as people.

Afterward, Ellen reminded the council that the role of RTCC is to serve as a forum to review technology decisions and ensure they maximize student performance and achievement. RTCC assists the Technology Services (TS) department in planning, looking at initiatives, and providing feedback on how technology is serving the RSD community. The TS technology plan and work of the department is in service of the District Core Values and Strategic Framework.

- **Service**: Providing a strong foundation.
- **Excellence:** Improving systems and support.
- **Equity:** Right support for each and every learner.

Ellen shared that she and Dr. Bob Ettinger will be presenting the Technology Plan to the Board of Directors at the upcoming Board Meeting and are excited to share how technology has been incorporated into learning across the district.

MINUTES REVIEW
Ellen shared the minutes for review and asked for questions or clarifications. There were none.

REFLECTIONS: LESSONS LEARNED
At the May 2021 meeting, the council discussed lessons learned during the school year (specifically in response to in-home learning) and what we would want to pull through into the new school year. At the September meeting, the council reflected on the May discussion, and identified what had changed / become stronger or better because of the experiences we had during school closure. In September, the council identified:

- **Shift in Mentality:** People being more flexible and adaptable.

- **Zoom Use:** People have found that Zoom continues to be a good resource for student and family engagement.
- **Instructional Tools & Practices:** There are more unique ways for students to demonstrate their learning.

Since the September meeting had low attendance, the council revisited this discussion to consider: what else and what's next? Ellen shared an example from her experience subbing at Dimmit Middle School. For the last 6 weeks, Ellen has been providing substitute support at Dimmit every Monday. One thing she has seen pulled through from remote learning, is the continued use of Learning Management Systems (LMS): Canvas and Google Classroom. Teachers have integrated this virtual classroom into their standard practice to organize resources and get them directly in the hands of students. Whenever Ellen goes into a new classroom, she knows she can direct students to Canvas where they can find the assignment left by their teacher and even access to emergency plans when needed.

She asked the council to consider what they have experienced in buildings and discuss in small groups what has been going well and what is next. As groups reflected, they shared their ideas in Padlet.

FULL GROUP DISCUSSION
- **Kevin T:** One new thing our team discussed is the Promethean Boards serving as a central community learning space where people can share information and collaborate. It is much more robust than a white board; students can share their work, collaborate with one another, and search for information online. It is cool to see these devices working more as a student-centered tool vs. a teacher-centered tool.
- **Tyann:** Students tend to not have chargers when using Chromebook which creates obstacles to learning.
  - **Ellen:** Our group was also discussing this issue and how we might support students' independence and sense of ownership by encouraging good behaviors when it comes to the responsibility of their device. As we continue to use devices regularly, students will get better at managing them, but there are opportunities for learning along the way.
- **Ellen:** There were a couple comments on the Padlet representing challenges that I want to touch on. "Supporting responsible use" was one of those, but also "access for paraeducators". When we did the last refresh, paraeducators were given desktops in a shared space or the use of a Chromebook, which proved to not be ideal when school was fully remote. On our next refresh cycle, we are looking into giving each individual paraeducator their own device. In the meantime, we are supplementing as much as possible until we reach a better solution in the future.
  - **Tyann:** I have found issues getting access to certain programs and applications, such as TCI. I had to work with a technician and sometimes a teacher to get access to the programs the students use.
  - **Ellen:** Yes, that is tricky because access to those programs often has to do with account automation or a setting in Skyward that connects you to a specific class, which creates the enrollment in those programs. We continue to problem-solve these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Ellen also noted there were a lot of strengths on the Padlet, such as people integrating different tools within their curriculum, using online forms, and all the options for students demonstrating their learning. These are the kinds of things that Ellen and Bob plan to share in the Technology Plan Annual Update.

UPDATES: TECHNOLOGY PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE
The goal of the Technology Plan Annual Update is to tell the story about how student learning in the classroom is enhanced by the Tech Levy. Ellen asked that RTCC listen to the presentation with that goal in mind, and to provide feedback on what she and Bob should tighten, eliminate, or highlight.
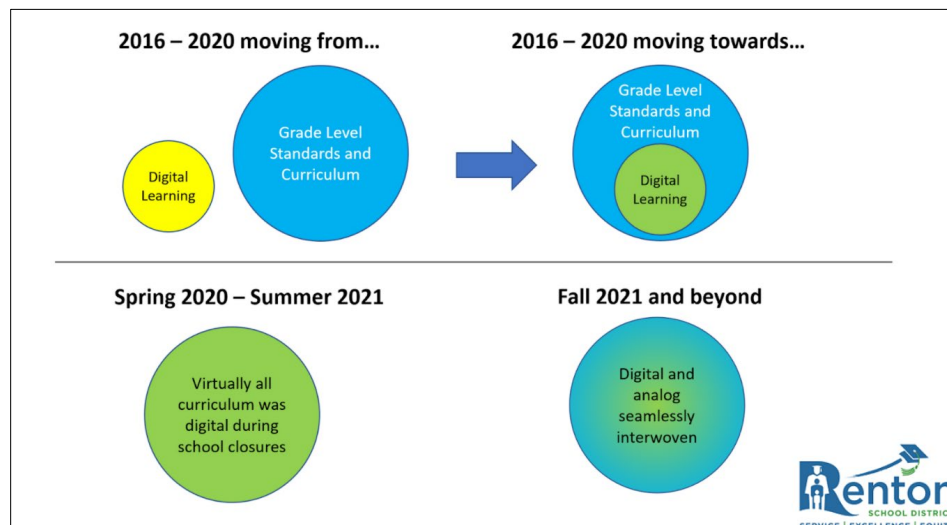
Accomplishments of the Current Levy
- Expansion of 1:1 program and refresh of staff devices

- o   Moved from having 6:1 ratio at some schools to full 1:1 at all grade levels
- Installation of interactive panels into classrooms
  - o   Promethean panels allow for sharper display and increased interactivity
  - o   Adding on from the feedback received today at RTCC: they have become a central community learning space for student-centered collaboration
- Digital tools and home access (hotspots) for students

Goals for the Upcoming Levy

- Devices to students and educators
  - o   Maintenance of the 1:1 program for students
  - o   Refreshing devices for staff
- Internet connections at school and home
  - o   Increase Network and Wi-Fi access points in schools
  - o   Continue to provide take-home hotspots for students
- Upgraded cybersecurity
- Digital support and training for teachers and students
- Classroom Technology
  - o   Gym Display Project
  - o   Enhanced Classroom Audio: Improving audio systems in schools

The Integration of Digital Learning in Core Curriculum

Bob shared a graphic (shown above) on how technology has been integrated into classroom practice over time. Prior to 2020, at the beginning of the Tech Levy, the goal was to move away from a model where digital learning and classroom curriculum were separate (where students engaged in activities like "tech time") and move toward an integrated model where digital learning is used in service of classroom standards and curriculum. In 2020, during school closure, virtually all learning was digital, which created extensive opportunities to learn and use the digital tools available for instruction and student engagement. Now, with the expertise gained during remote learning, there is a seamless interchange between digital and analog learning. In some classrooms you will see a fully digital experience where students are programming or using their devices to solve problems, and others where there isn't a device in sight, but mostly what we are seeing in schools is a mix of both. For example, Bob got to visit a classroom where they were doing a Socratic Seminar. All the students had their devices open so they could refer to their notes, but the devices weren't the central

focus - they were part of the way the students were engaging in the classroom. What Bob and Ellen find exciting about this integration is that it more closely mirrors real life. For example, in this meeting we are using Zoom to hold the meeting, Google Slides to present, and Padlet to gather feedback. We aren't using these tools for the sake of the tools, but because they enhance our experience and provide more opportunities to engage, learn, and collaborate.

Ellen concluded by showing some learning artifacts from classrooms including images from the Socratic Seminar, and images from classrooms demonstrating both digital and analog learning.

Ellen opened the floor for feedback.

- **Jason:** Is there any part of the Tech Levy that will be used in the new school as an enhancement?
  - **Ellen:** Whenever a new school is built, the technology is set up to the standard we want for all schools. She deferred to Rahman to see if there were any additional things being considered.
  - **Rahman:** The Bond will pay for most of the new school set up and then the Tech Levy will cover any additional enhancements after that.
- **Tyann:** One of my children is in elementary school and they use Google Classroom. My older child is in middle school, and they use Canvas. Is there a reason for this?
  - **Ellen:** Prior to COVID, Canvas was piloted for use as an LMS in secondary schools. There is a big learning curve for Canvas, so Google Classroom was a good intermediate step in terms of familiarizing teachers with using an LMS. When the closure happened, OSPI said that we needed to select an LMS to use, but since our district was using both Canvas and Google Classroom at the time, we didn't want to make one standard across the board. We decided to use Google Classroom at the elementary level because it would be easier for the younger users to navigate. Secondary schools were given the option to use the LMS that worked best for them.
- **Bob:** Did the green-blue-yellow imagery resonate for school-based folks? Does that describe the integration well and what you have experienced?
  - **Kevin T:** I was so curious on how you were going to explain that, and you did such a beautiful job. Don't change anything about it.
  - **Amy:** Yes, I think that really comes across in a positive and purposeful manner. It's not tech for tech sake – it is using technology to facilitate learning. I thought the explanation of it was really clear.
  - **Ellen:** I also appreciate hearing that what we are trying to represent is also what you are seeing in your classrooms. It is helpful to get confirmation here about that.
- **Keith:** I think it would be good to highlight the professional development around continued technology advancements and computational thinking. As technology evolves, how will the teachers evolve with it?
  - **Ellen:** Thank you, that is a good point. While a lot of new learning came out of necessity due to COVID, we should also have a purposeful plan for how to support that continued growth.
- **Bob:** It is coming up on Computer Science Week, and so I have added a link to the chat to a revised Hour of Code website with some really cool activities. Since you all engage with the tech work at your schools, I thought I would share with you if you are interested. It is also being shared with district facilitators and teachers. It's exciting work in case you are interested in engaging with it.
- **Jason:** What are the dates listed on slide 20 in reference to?

  *** The meeting was unexpectedly interrupted and reconvened after Zoom reloaded***

Ellen thanked the council for jumping back into the meeting after the interruption. She explained that the dates Jason was referring to on slide 20 are the upcoming RTCC meetings:

- Feb. 1, 2022

- March 29, 2022
- May 24, 2022

Ellen opened the floor to further feedback regarding the Technology Plan Annual Update.

- **Amy:** I think one final thing I want to add in looking at the list (the padlet) is that it is encouraging, especially at an elementary level, that there aren't a lot of new tools. Last year it felt like we were really inundated with new tools. So, it seems like for the next couple years, with support and training we can really match the tools to the task and deepen our knowledge of current tools to use them more effectively.
  - o **Ellen**: Yes! This is exactly what we are aiming for. We want to continually grow in how we are using tools and technology. There was a time when it was more about getting the initial access to these resources. Now, we have the tools and capacity to flexibly use what we need to support learning.

Before closing out, Ellen reminded the council the replacement levy will be on the ballot in February and asked the council to share any story ideas to help people understand how the Tech Levy actually supports students. Ellen shared a link to a form where people can submit ideas or share the name of someone in the district doing cool things with technology.

- **Amy:** When do you need these by?
  - o **Ellen:** It would be best to get these in before winter break, since we want to start sharing stories in January prior to the ballot. This will give some time for Randy Matheson (Community Relations Director) to do some interviews and collect images, etc.

Before the next meeting on February 1, 2022, Ellen will be sending out a survey to gather ideas about topics we should be tackling. One she heard today was supporting both students and families in developing good habits and a healthy relationship with technology. What she would like to learn from the council are some of the other things that we should be focusing on as a collective. She welcomed the council to share any they had at this time. There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Ellen thanked the council for meeting to help the technology team think about how to do things better, for providing feedback, and asking questions. She invited anyone to stay on who wished to ask further questions or had something else they wanted to discuss.