

Technology Committee Meeting Agenda:

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

I. Curriculum Enhancements

A. Waterford – K- 1 Reading/Math

B. www.learning.com - 1st – 6th Grade C.O.S.

C. Buckeye Tech – 7th/8th Grade C.O.S.

D. AlphaSmart Neo – Elementary Word Processing, Keyboarding, Star Reading/Math Assessments

Discussed benefits of Curriculum and Technology Department collaboration in purchasing decisions. District technology purchases will now occur in a joint effort utilizing the combined budgets where possible.

Discussion of tentatively proposed k-8 Technology Course of Study:

-Waterford Software for grades k-1 will continue to be used.

-Discussed increasing access to Waterford for parents whose children are in the half-day kindergarten classes. Maybe parents could schedule a time to go in lab with their child during lunch recess or after school.

-Questioned whether parents could get onto Waterford from home. However, since it's not web-based, that is not an option.

-www.learning.com will be used by 1st – 6th grades and integrates technology and Ohio Content Standards. Lessons from this program can supplement or replace lessons in other subjects. For example, students can take data generated from a math lesson and then create a spreadsheet to manipulate/analyze and present it.

-Buckeye Tech will replace the current technology courses offered at the Junior High

-The use of AlphaSmart Neo's (small keyboard devices) will allow for word processing to occur at the elementary levels instead of at the Junior High. The system is also capable of doing quizzes and assessments.

-Discussed possible future use of "Black Board" software for course management, which would give students and parents better access to classroom materials.

-Discussed increased use of SmartBoards in the classroom. Expressed concern that parents need to have a better understanding of what material is being studied on the SmartBoard so they can assist their children with homework and projects.

II. Additional Equipment Spending

- A. 4 Elementary Waterford Labs – (120 units)**
- B. 2 Junior High Technology Labs – (60 units)**
- C. 240 AlphaSmart Neo's (240 wireless units)**

-Waterford labs need to be replaced at elementary buildings. Alpha Smart Neo's would need to be purchased for elementary use as well. These items would be purchased jointly with technology and curriculum funds.

III. Additional Staffing Needs

- A. Elementary Integration Specialist**
- B. Full-time Repair Technician**
- C. Three additional elementary technology aides**
- D. Part-time AV/Technician**

-The proposal to bring in Additional Staff for the Technology Department is still in a preliminary discussion phase.

-Discussed critical need for additional staffing to service not only existing equipment and systems, but future acquisitions proposed above. Talked about effects of recent Hallmark virus and how much time it can take to address emergency situations that arise. Technology plays a vital role in the day-to-day operations of the district. It was acknowledged that adequate staffing must be in place to provide timely support and protect the district's investment in technology curriculum materials.

Proposed Additional Staff include:

-The Elementary Integrations Specialist position would assist teachers with integrating the various software programs into their lessons and would serve as a trainer on how to manipulate the new software.

-An additional repair technician is needed to help service existing and new equipment/software acquisitions.

-Elementary Technology Aides would be used in the Computer Labs to provide teachers immediate assistance during lab time. The recent Staff Technology Survey showed that many district staff felt there was a need to have an onsite resource person. This would help prevent valuable class time from being taken up with minor issues that could be solved by an on-hand, trained lab monitor.

-A part-time AV Technician would assist with installing and servicing SmartBoards. This person would also handle preventive maintenance on various AV/computer equipment throughout the district.

IV. Staff Technology Survey Summary

-Reviewed survey results. Many staff felt an on-hand resource person was needed to assist in the development of integrated lessons as well as with computer issues in the computer labs related to student use/instruction. Ongoing training to learn how to use interactive white boards, create web site and use software was also requested.

V. Adaptive Technologies (Video Cart, Laptop)

The Technology Department recently assisted in two situations where students needed specialized assistance to be able to continue their studies.

-A special cart was equipped to videotape AP classes for a seriously ill high school student who is currently unable to attend school. A modified laptop was assigned to a student experiencing difficulties with writing.

Misc.

Discussed if we had the ability to make audio files of Board Meeting Minutes searchable by topic (according to meeting agenda). This would enable members of the public to selection a specific portion of the meeting to play back.