

Tech Coordinators Forum, 10-21-2009

- Forum, 10/21/09
- Attendance is recorded but not posted in the publicly accessible minutes.
- Agenda: <http://docs.google.com/View?docID=0AfpToMhndrpjZGZ0Njc1M2ZfM3Z4NWJtc2Rz&revision=latest>
- ▼ Policies and Procedures
 - ▼ 1:1 what has worked? What has not worked?(Fillmore Central)
 - ▼ Getting ready to go 1:1 for 2010-11. Have attended some of the "community" meetings around. Looking for other input.
 - Brownell-Talbot in 8th year. Looking at mixed platform for next year. Private school, requirement that students bring own laptops. That is a difference compared to public schools. But the mixed platform network and policies may be worth it.
 - Next 1:1 laptop community meeting January 19, 2010, at ESU 10
 - ▼ Social Networking in schools
 - ▼ Anyone using it--with a group/school page? (Papllion is, but not represented)
 - Not suggesting that we unblock for student use. But should we allow buildings to use Facebook as a way to communicate more with parents and students?

- Twitter account being used by one district present. Also know that Lincoln is using it for news bites and also to prevent it from being used by others (to keep someone else from taking the account name).
- Hastings and Kearney chose SchoolFusion as web host to be able to combine social networking with the district web site. Demo of blogging capabilities, discussion of calendaring features, parent accounts. Districts are not far enough through the migration to have mastery or best practices, but they do have some examples of how this works.
- ▼ Administrative Systems and Services
 - ▼ National Ed Tech Plan
 - Asking for input on how the NETP would be formed. SuAnn would be willing to compile group input as a "Nebraska" recommendation rather than just having individual input. Send her any comments you would like to have included.
 - ▼ Question: "Is everyone's e-rate tech plan their 'real' tech plan?"
 - The technology plan should be integrated with the school improvement plan. It works better when school improvement is integrated with the technology plan.
 - Queried group as to how many people have a separate written technology plan. Limited response. Queried about how many had some documentation, committees, information in their head about how the implementation would happen that is not detailed in the technology plan. General response was that everyone had some of that.
 - ▼ E-Rate Training update:

- Attempting to move more online. There will be fewer and fewer paper forms.
- Documents stored as electronic storage for e-rate audit purposes must have a board policy allowing electronic storage of documents/data retention
- ▼ PIA process discussion: review applications prior to approval to be sure all questions are asked
 - If approved without adequate answers, it could trigger an audit
 - Review process becoming more friendly--guiding the process
- ▼ Audit may require all documentation to be sent to auditors--must be on paper
 - If any documents are being stored electronically, there must be a board policy allowing the electronic document retention.
- Eligible services list changes: VoIP phones now can be priority 1
- ▼ Tech Planning: Is everyone's erate tech plan the "real" tech plan?
 - NDE hopes to make the online document more useful
 - Discussion of School Improvement related to Tech Plan
- Training documents are online if anyone would like to review them.
- Technology Colloquium/CTO clinic for tech decision makers coming in early spring. Focus on project management.
- ▼ NDE Curriculum Report online

- Curriculum report must be filed online this year (2 methods). GI currently does paper. Districts who tried online last year preferred paper. There are items in the system that are currently not tracked. This is part of CDC rather than NSSRS. Curriculum directors did not get an update last week at their meeting. Process is largely unknown as of this time.
- ▼ NSSRS
 - Process seems to be getting better.
 - Merging of SRS (special ed database) has seemingly created data integrity problems
- ▼ SLDS: State Longitudinal Data System
 - potential to link students to teachers to grades in the future
- ▼ Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Development
 - ▼ Podcasting
 - Professional Development using podcasting being considered. What pros/cons are there?
 - Recommendation of new iPod Nano as solution to create classroom video clips. Better than flip cameras.
 - ▼ Professional development solutions:
 - ▼ Podcasting is an option. How do you logistically handle it?
 - One district posts podcasts ahead of time and reminds staff to watch them in advance.
 - Can also have blog attached to allow responses.
 - Conversations here tend to become more thoughtful because staff know they will be read.
 - Problem comes in that this becomes out-of-school work so teachers do complain about that.

- ▼ What else works?
 - Summer training opportunities: give away technology in lieu of stipends
 - Have in-district teaching staff do it so they have a personal contact
 - After-school mentor meetings to cover shorter topics (Converting AppleWorks documents, new mail system, etc.)
 - Difficulty having tech people do the trainings--it's one more thing on the workload
- ▼ NWEA MAP
 - Quantity of computers, availability of computer labs is a big deal
 - Moving to computer-based testing does not (or at least should not) mean that it is now the tech's responsibility
 - Administrative clarification of the technician's job description (and sticking to that) should be made before implementation
- ▼ NeSA-R
 - ▼ Practice test available
 - Went well enough last year that practice test not given in many districts
 - Other districts doing grades 3 & 11
 - Should not affect NETA attendance
 - Grades 3-8 and 11 must be tested in April
 - Local Caching Server
- ▼ Moodle
 - ▼ KPS showed server currently in place
 - Did own installation. Pretty simple, for open source software

- Open source works well, but be sure you can support it. Moodle does have several companies that offer
 - ESU 3 is offering server instances of Moodle for their schools
 - many add-on modules available
 - A Learning Management System experience is a great preparation for higher education (Blackboard, WebCT, etc). ANGEL is another viable option used by many districts
- ▼ Data Management
 - Consider user groups for web site hosting services. Not a critical mass at this time. May consider listserv or other common group, though.
- ▼ Security
 - ▼ Password management (personal and network)
 - LDAP tie-in for several technologies in some districts
 - Active Directory master
 - Generate encrypted document that holds all personal passwords and store on PDA. Blackberry is the most secure PDA.
 - DataVault. Encrypted password manager on computer that syncs with Blackberry. 10 tries to unlock it if you forget the password before it erases the database.
- ▼ Network
 - ▼ Managed wireless systems: successes and failures, sample RFP
 - ▼ Cisco not recommended
 - Too expensive for what you get. Ongoing maintenance costs are the difficult part.
 - Not a bad product, just expensive.

- ▼ Aruba
 - Manages throughput well
- ▼ Trapeze
 - Good management and monitoring features
 - Guest access in separate VLAN
- ▼ Ruckus
 - Bid came between Aruba and this; this solution was less expensive
- ▼ HP (Colubris)
 - viable option, less features/flexibility
- ▼ General comments
 - Older clients have some encryption issues with strong (AES+TKIP) WLAN encryption
 - Consider dual-radio scenarios with b/g/n bandwidth management
 - Density planning with APs is important
 - ESU 5 just issued RFP
 - ESU 3 just issued RFP as well
- ▼ NETA Conference
 - ▼ Tech strand: feedback on 2009, looking forward to 2010
 - User groups (Mac/Win) 2 slots too much for presenters
 - Moodle: set up and administration, professional development and teacher support
 - ▼ Virtualization (Dave Evertson, then Jeff Wooters present?)
 - perspective of management more important than technical detail (or at least should come first)
 - Google Apps for Education (Falls City, Lex)
 - ▼ Disaster Recovery (backup: offsite storage and more)
 - ESU 10 storage + prescribed backup solution?

- Offsite storage plus good software important
- ▼ Virtual Desktops
 - Server 2008 R2 solution: virtual desktops and virtual applications an option
 - Will this be an alternative of a 1:1?
 - Windows 7
 - DeployStudio (Amanda Kunes and Anthony Nabower)
 - SpiceWorks (David Koch or his recruit)--partial- or full-day vendor workshop instead?
 - Intermapper (Kevin O'Neill)
- ▼ Workshops
 - SpiceWorks
 - Podcasting
 - Web 2.0: Twitter, Facebook, etc.
 - Google Apps?
 - Facility tours of CoSentry, UNL supercomputer center, PKI, Paypal
- ▼ 1:1 strand probably will be repeated from last year
 - E-mail Nicole Badgely with information on sessions you would present or sessions you would like to see.
- ▼ New Technologies
 - ▼ Windows 7
 - Imaging/deployment changes required
 - ▼ Policies much more reliable than Vista's
 - Also changed significantly from XP
 - Stable, great interface, no driver problems, faster booting and OS
 - ▼ Google Apps for students
 - Postini mail filtering free if signed up by July 1, 2010
 - Archiving available for a fee

- One goal is to reduce paper usage
- Document sharing for hand-in
- school assigned e-mail account to students under 14 not legal without separate signed parent permission
- StudyWiz @ Lex middle school for similar purposes
- ▼ Parent Communication tools (specifically call systems)
 - used: SchoolReach, SchoolMessenger, Blackboard Connect (Connect-ED), AlertNow
 - not recommended: SchoolBeacon
 - Don't forget the online tools (Twitter, Facebook, e-mail notifications)
 - Be sure you can auto-upload from your student information system
- ▼ Breakout Session Ideas
 - ▼ Tech Support Strategies: Staffing
 - Less than 1 FTE
 - 1 FTE
 - More than 1 FTE
 - ▼ Tech Support Strategies: Tools and Automation
 - Broke into groups that included some from each of the above
 - Notes from the breakouts will be posted separately.