

RENTON TECHNOLOGY COORDINATING COUNCIL

April 16, 2009

MINUTES

Minutes will be approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. Any additions and/or corrections to the minutes will be reflected in the minutes of the subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Jerry Sidwell, Brooke Trisler, Barbara Folmer, Stosh Morency, David Merrill, Diane Ferbrache, Al Talley, Bill Tarter, Rebecca Ritchie, Tony Helt, Ron Hansen, Anita O'Bryan

Members Absent: Rob MacGregor, Elias Lunsford, Jay Leviton, Mike Shaw, Jeff Howard

Guests: Tech Liaisons, Computer Lab Specialists, IMS Department members

Minutes and Introductions:

Co-Chairperson, Stosh Morency, brought the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. at the Renton High School Atrium. March minutes were emailed to members April 15 and posted on the IMS web site. Rebecca Ritchie moved and Jerry Sidwell seconded to approve the minutes. Co-Chairperson, Brooke Trisler, introduced with show of hands the groups represented: RTCC members, tech liaisons, computer lab specialists, and IMS department members. Six tables contained equal representation for all areas. He shared the norms for the evening. Laptops were active at each table to scribe suggestions into a Survey Monkey template with the questions. Members not attending will receive the same survey of questions to be compiled for the minutes.

Technology Training in District

1. What is the purpose of technology resources in our district?
 - a. Communication [interior and exterior]
 - b. Collaboration
 - c. Increased access to resources [opening the classroom]
 - d. Transform Process
 - e. Data Collection
 - f. Centralization of Information = Easier Consist Access

2. How do you think the district should facilitate usage within classroom instruction?
 - a. Training [adequate, thoughtful, appropriated, instructional integration, reusable,]
 - i. PLC Tech Time
 - ii. Peer mentoring/Modeling Technology Based Instruction
 - iii. Staff Meeting Tech Bytes
 - b. Minimum Technology Competency for Teachers and Students
 - c. More Technology – Additional computers in classroom
 - d. Less Technology – Focus on using what we have
 - e. Reliable Technology/Infrastructure
 - f. Medium for sharing ideas and standards
 - g. Administration Buy-In

3. How do you think the district should prioritize training?
 - a. Things they need to know to do their job
 - b. Better utilization of the existing tools
 - c. Based on district funded initiatives
 - d. Provide basic training for everyone for all initiatives
 - e. Integration into curriculum and instruction
 - f. Training to use for student learning
 - g. Define prerequisites for higher level training/learning

4. What criteria should be used to approve new or additional technology resources for existing initiatives?
 - a. How is it going to improve student learning?
 - b. How does it integrate with what we have now?
 - c. Do we have something that will work? But if so, how long will it be supported?
 - d. Does it help with teacher workload, so they can focus more on teaching students?
 - e. Realistically, how much will it be used?
 - f. How many things are we trying to implement at once - so training can be optimized.
 - g. Do we really need a new version?
 - h. Is the infrastructure in place? [computer, bandwidth, support]
 - i. What curriculum is driving this?
 - j. Aligned with district goals?
 - k. Ease of use?
 - l. Advance the use of the current technology?
 - m. Sustainability?
 - n. Define consumable and total cost of ownership.

5. What criteria should be used to balance resources between schools, grade levels, content areas, and/or special areas?
 - a. Legal Requirements
 - b. Define Basic Minimums
 - c. Reallocate underutilized resources
 - d. Good Stewardship of resources
 - e. Equal distribution within grade levels
 - f. Based on enrollment
 - g. District Tech Plan Goals
 - h. Curriculum needs
 - i. Special Education
 - j. Building infrastructure
 - k. Scalable to district-wide
 - l. Purchase appropriate for grade level

6. What criteria should be used to evaluate, pilot, and approve new initiatives?
 - a. Pilot group should document technology and share ideas with others
 - b. Grant style application process
 - c. Cost effectiveness
 - d. How much will it cost to maintain?/Long Term Fees/Sustainability
 - e. Compatibility. Does it work with existing technology.
 - f. how it would be used
 - g. purpose of it
 - h. meet market standard
 - i. what are other alternatives

- j. Easy to use?
 - k. Bottom line: How will it improve student learning?
 - l. How will it benefit students both in real life and in the classroom?
 - m. Can it be fixed when it breaks?
 - n. What is the plan for support? District and developer/company
 - o. Reviews by other users - or has no one ever used it before?/ Research Based?
 - p. Implementation [cost/labor/timeline]
 - q. Have people been asking for this new initiative?
 - r. Impact on system/users
 - s. Time until obsolete/relevance
 - t. Training/Required and Supplied
 - u. Committee involved in decision making
 - v. Pre and Post Test
7. Questions that were not asked or you did not have a chance to ask.
- a. Where are the initiatives originated? Sometimes it seems like things are given to schools to implement that they do not feel a need for? What are the rules regarding bypassing the "process"? Are there certain people who can create instant initiatives? We had a long discussion of the merits and problems with blocking certain websites - teachers would like to be able to make individual decisions on the fly. Easier reporting of blocked websites, even when logged in as students. Should blocking programs substitute for classroom management? Thu, 4/16/09 6:05 PM
 - b. How do we get them involved? How do we get information out to our stakeholders within the district about the resources and initiatives that are available to them? (like using eFolio) Thu, 4/16/09 6:05 PM
 - c. What should this look like in 10-15 years? Can we get it online for free? How will we change the vision of the teachers to embrace technology? How can we equalize access for students, regardless of socio-economic status? Thu, 4/16/09 6:04 PM
 - d. What's next? When do we get to start spending the tech levy money? What are the criteria for evaluating current (in-use) products? Thu, 4/16/09 6:03 PM
 - e. How do we hold teachers accountable? Attitude or perception survey dist. wide. Have teachers take a technology survey through OSPI. What are the students' interests or thoughts on new technology? Thu, 4/16/09 6:03 PM
 - f. What is the criteria for software approval and the equity (ex PTA's buying software for certain schools such as Kennydale) - Thu, 4/16/09 6:03 PM

Brooke thanked the group. He reported that the results will be presented at the May RTCC meeting and emailed. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:
Cathie Freiling

Handouts:
No