Student Technology Think Tank
Committee Notes No. 3
September 17, 2015

Introduction and Meeting Minutes:

Kurt Gazow, Executive Director of Technology, opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. He welcomed the group and presented the meeting minutes from September 10 and asked the group to review and approve the minutes. There were no edits or corrections and the minutes were approved by consensus.

Kurt introduced the guest speakers from Microsoft, Sonja Delafosse and Mark Sparvell. Mark Sparvell presented from an international perspective on 1:1 technology initiatives. Sonja Delafosse has previously been part of student technology initiatives in two Washington school districts (Lake Washington and Everett School Districts). Both Mark and Sonja are presently working for Microsoft in their World Wide Education team.

Mark Sparvell presented first. He opened the presentation with a video showing what technology could potentially look like in the not too distant future in an effort to frame the conversation with the group, highlighting the need to prepare students for a diverse future.

An example was provided of students integrating physical experience into digital projects, highlighting the application of experiential learning informing projects that are completed digitally. Mark proceeded to highlight the Microsoft Showcase Schools program, discussing opportunities for partnership with regional, national, and international programs which are tackling classroom technology integration. He discussed the showcase candidate program, and the opportunity for visits, analysis of best practices.

Mark then discussed advances in user interfaces utilizing digital ink using a stylus for data entry, notation, and modification. Recent research was cited/presented on this topic:
- Computer interfaces and their impact on learning (Sharon Oviatt)
- The design of future educational interfaces (Sharon Oviatt)
- The pen is mightier than the keyboard: advantages of longhand over laptop note taking (Mueller/Oppenheimer)
- Innovative Teaching and Learning Research (www.itlresearch.com)

A presentation on the importance of school leadership in student technology implementations was then presented by Mr. Sparvell. The need for strong leadership, combined with meaningful professional development, was highlighted. The 'Education Transformation Framework' was reviewed as a potential resource/reference. Several references were made to available resources for schools to use to work with their staff.

Sonja Delafosse discussed her experiences with 1:1 initiatives in regional schools. Her presentation focused primarily on the associated professional development (PD) needs to support teachers during a 'digital transformation' initiative. Her recommendation was for an instructional coaching model, while ensuring sufficient time was made available for individualized professional learning. She shared several presentations from Edutopia, as well as advising investment in the PD of coaches not being overlooked (training the trainers).

During her presentation, she noted that in examples she observed, full school roll-outs of 1:1 programs were more successful, notably at secondary schools given the overall complexity of scheduling, mixed grade level classes, and other challenges.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15PM; presenters remained afterwards for questions and answers.