

Bellingham School District
2010-2013 Technology Plan Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

February 11, 2010

I. Welcome – Thank you!

James opened with comments thanking the committee members for contributing to the Google Group and the Google Doc to continue the thinking and conversations from the previous week.

II. Review of February 4 Meeting

An opportunity to provide input to the rest of the group about the meeting on the 4th. Jeff Thran mentioned that there were two groups who discussed the different goals and possible strategies supporting the three goals of the tech plan. Mark Quenneville mentioned he'd like to hear more from Andy Mark and his posting about the initiative where businesses fund much of the public school technology needs.

III. Discussion

1. Google Doc – Vision / Goals / Strategies

- i. James asked for any additional input from members for the Google Doc.
- ii. There were approximately 24 edits from the group. Thank you!

2. Conference Call - Karen Cator, Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education

- i. Much of our evening was spent discussing our plan with Karen Cator. (Thank you, Michael Jay, for arranging the conversation.) Karen hit on some significant issues and helped shape our thinking with the three goals required for the plan.
- ii.

3. NETS•S, NETS•T, NETS•A mapping and alignment (handout)

- i. James developed a document for each of the three goals and the proposed strategies (to date) of the tech plan. He applied the NETS•S, NETS•T, NETS•A to each of the tech plan's respective goals' strategies. The purpose was to identify where in our goals and strategies we've fallen short. We looked them over and made a few comments, but the conversation did not move us to any action. We essentially tabled this effort after talking with Karen Cator – above.

IV. Strategies

1. Implications of activities above

- i. As a group we did not move into this area. We were sent in another direction following comments by Karen Cator (above). We ultimately changed our focus to approach the tech plan. Her advice, with respect to all three goals, was to direct our attention to goals, strategies, and activities bent on increasing student engagement. Her comments regarding the 8th grade assessment were that that any assessment of 8th grade technology literacy (at least from the federal point of view)

is at best, “sketchy.” Her recommendation was to ask three questions of our students: 1. Are our students information literate? 2. Are they media literate –do they consume, produce, and create? 3. Do our students understand the technology itself – ethically, with regard to safety, and digital citizenship? Much of her input was from the federal level, but helped us frame our approach.

ii. We will address each goal with three specific strategies:

- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- Digital Citizenship

iii. Still from Karen,

- For teacher technology development: focus on helping teachers create compelling assignments where students use technology for constructivist purposes. There should be some type of compelling problem to be solved – foster an awareness and develop deeper thinking. Adults use technology in their personal learning and in their personal lives. Have an ability to engage students to help them do their own work.
- For administrative technology development: focus on helping administrators develop teacher support – help them leverage and encourage teachers to be creative in their thinking and to foster an environment where risk is expected and acknowledged.

2. Discussion / revision / refinement

The original plan was to discuss, revisit, and refine the strategies provided on the Google Doc. Rather, we discussed, revised, and refined our vision for the three goals, and implementation, based on what Karen shared above.

3. We also revisited the important component of the implementation of the plan we develop.

There were many comments around the development of a 4th goal with the sole purpose of ensuring the implementation of the plan. While the state’s requirements of the three prescribed goals don’t exclude the addition of a 4th, it was decided that we should look at ways of incorporating implementation strategies within the 3 prescribed goals. Not only will this approach reinforce the importance of the three goals, it will also guarantee we do not detract from the support of the three goals. That stated, the subgroup working on these strategies liked the idea of pulling the concept of implementation out of the three goals to form an approach and will then recommend methods for integrating the implementation strategies into the goals. We must always keep in front of us that idea that what we propose and support is in the effort to increase engagement for our students, resulting in a service approach to the plan we develop and implement.

V. Tasks and Activities

1. Existing initiatives

- Technology Literacy of 8th Grade Students
- Technology Integration Skills of Teachers

i. Prior to the conversation with Karen, James shared a brief overview of each of the two initiatives above. The plan is to be able to present more content for these two initiatives at the February 18 committee meeting.

2. Provide input (planning sheets)

- i. The planning sheets were provided to allow an exercise where the group provided specific tasks and activities for each of the goal strategies provided on the Google Doc. Again, due to the change of direction, this didn't occur.

VI. Next Steps

- ~~1. Incorporate tonight's input, clean up the vision / goals / strategies / tasks & activities—and post the revised document online.~~
- ~~2. Continue opportunities to provide input for tasks & activities through the BSD Tech Plan Google Group.~~
3. Given the content for 1 & 2, written prior to the meeting, the approach has changed. Instead, we all decided to work together on specific goals with respect to the three specific areas:
 - i. information literacy
 - ii. media literacy
 - iii. digital citizenship

Goal 1: Technology Literacy of 8th Grade Students: Cathy/Analisa/Eric/Tracy

Goal 2: Technology Integration Skills of Teachers: Cathy/James/Ashley

Goal 3: Technology Proficiencies of Administrators, Teachers, and Teacher-Librarians: Mark/Michael/Tracy/Eric/James

Goal 4: Implementation: Mark/Michael/Tracy/Eric/James

4. Next Meeting:
 - a) Thursday, February 18, 2010
 - b) Roeder, Room 212, 4:00 pm