

Meeting #1 - Tuesday, January 15, 2013
3:00-5:00 at the District Office, Board Room

Minutes

Attending Members: Jason Alexander, Sharon Camblin, Kirstin Copeland, Jeff Coulter, Paula Dagnon, Chuck DeVange, Jim Facciano, Rob Freeman, Michael Jay, Gil Lund, Darrel Lutton, Brian MacNevin, Carter Maden, Connor McGreevy, Linda Miller, Steve Morse, Kristin O'Malley, Brian Pahl, Tracy Shaw, Michele Shenkin, Jim Straatman, Tim Stricklett, Sue Thomas, Jeff Thran, Greg Verbarendse, Joe Wooding

Co-Chairs: Ralph Hayden, Director of Educational Technology, Libraries and Online Learning; Janae Hodge, Shuksan Middle School Assistant Principal; Tom Venable, Deputy Superintendent

Ex-Officio: Ron Cowan, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; John Getchell, Manager of Educational Technology and Network Services; Tanya Rowe, Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations

Meeting started at 3:08pm.

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-chair Ralph Hayden welcomed group and introduced co-chairs, Janae Hodge and Tom Venable. Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed members and expressed thanks for dedicating their valuable time to the work of the committee. He expressed his hope that Bellingham School District can become the "gold standard" in the use of technology to support teaching and learning. He reminded the group that the community voted overwhelmingly in support of the new Tech Levy, indicating they are willing to invest in technology for our schools. It is now the committee's responsibility to deliver on it. Dr. Baker shared his view of the committee's 5 key strategies/goals: to set a vision; to hold the district accountable; to identify appropriate state of the art technology that works; to ensure equitable distribution of technology resources; and to consider the issue of training and development.

Small and Large Group Introductions:

Co-chair Ralph Hayden divided the committee into groups of four in order to get to know each other by asking: what new technology are learning about/using? What adjective is used to describe you? The large group shareout revealed a wealth and variety of experience of the committee members.

Generating Meeting Norms:

Co-chair Janae Hodge again broke the committee into different small groups and asked for thoughts and ideas related to how best to work together as a group. Through a large group shareout a starter list of norms was generated and recorded for all to view and provide input. Volunteers were solicited to streamline and edit the list down to a user-friendly brief list that captures the group's ideas. Sue Thomas and Jim Facciano volunteered to do so and will bring the list to the January 29 meeting, if not sharing beforehand.

Establishing Context for our Work:

Co-chair Tom Venable guided the committee through an overview of the Bellingham Promise document and then asked the group to think about the role of Educational Technology in fulfilling that promise. Some of the ideas shared include

- A vehicle to provide innovation and flexibility.
- Educational technology supports all areas of the Bellingham Promise- it provides the infrastructure.
- We live in a tech-rich environment/world and every student should have access to current technology both at school and at home.
- Access to technology during the day should be universal – not just limited to the computer lab. It should be available to all students in every class, supporting educational programs.
- Technology should be invisible and seamless. It should be a tool, a stepping stone.
- Computers/technology are modern tools that are necessary for career readiness.
- Technology should have a purpose for being there – to facilitate good learning – not just for tech’s sake.
- To what extent do we engage partnerships with the community? We need to encourage this type of conversation.

The committee then watched the video, *Engage Me*.

Wrap-up:

- Co-chair Ralph Hayden asked for volunteers for a Steering Subcommittee. Michael Jay and Brian Pahl volunteered to join the Steering Subcommittee along with Ralph and Janae. He will email details to the members.
- Members were asked to keep in mind their various colleagues/interest groups/experiences and the value of sharing best practices.
- He directed members to the Educational Technology Planning Committee webpage on the District website for supporting documents such as:
 - The BSD Technology Plan for 2010-13
 - BSD Tech Plan worksheets
 - Word Wall (upcoming)
- Focus for next meeting:
 - Ron Cowan, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations will speak about the tech levy.
 - Kathryn Weilage, Director of Business Services will speak about the funding cycle
 - Meeting Norms—final review and begin to implement
- Next meeting: Jan 29th in Bellingham School District Office, Conference room 212.

Meeting ended at 4:56pm