

## 2014-2015 Regular Meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC)

Fremont Unified School District, Technology Training Center, District Office, 4210 Technology Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

March 2, 2015, 7:00 PM

***NOTE: Those who wish to speak under Oral Communications must be present prior to 7:00 PM to request to do so.***

### OPENING ACTIVITIES

1. Call to Order      Time: 7:04 p.m.
2. Roll Call & Introductions:

Fremont Community Member	Present (Y/N)	FUSD Staff Member	Present (Y/N)
Rebecca Smith, M.S.Ed. TAC Chair, Parent & Educator	Y	Antoinette Schlobohm TAC Vice-Chair & Teacher	Y
Robert Hou, Parent, Mission San Jose HS	Y	Anne Damron, TAC Secretary, CSEA Rep., School Secretary	Y
Sameer Desai, Parent, Forest Park Elem.	N	Rob Reibenschuh, Asst. Principal,	Y
Melissa Heckman, Parent, Harvey Green Elem.	N	Maile Ferreira, FUDTA Rep. & FUSD Librarian	Y
Linda Licari, Parent, Niles Elementary	Y	Thom Birbeck, Teacher, FUDTA Rep.	Y
Aaron Cammarata, Parent, Mattos Elem.	Y	Michelle Hartman-Gruber, SEIU Rep., Campus Supervisor	N
Vikram Jung, Parent, Mission San Jose HS	Y	Danielle Girard, Instructional Technology Coordinator	Y
Peter Xie, Parent, Parkmont Elem.	Y	Vacant	

Seated Voting Members: 12

Quorum: 8    Voting Members: 15

Joe Siam, CTO, ex-Officio

Y

Guests included David Thornley, Assessment Coordinator; Jeff Downing, Parent & Computer Specialist, Millard Elementary; & PRAA Members: Dr. James Morris, Supt.; Nishit Vasavada, Parent MSJHS; Raj Barma, Parent, HIS; Chung Wu, Parent, MSJHS; Sue Byrne, Parent, WJHS; Lubic Julice, Parent, Brier; Denise Schiller, Parent, Durham, Flo Moscon, Community Member, Azevada, Shong-Mong Shan, Parent, Hopkins JHS.

3. Approval of January Minutes: Linda Licari made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Aaron Cammarata seconded the motion. Motion approved with the following abstentions.  
Abstentions: Thom Birbeck, Antoinette Schlobohm, Rob Reibenschuh.
4. Approval of Agenda: Anne Damron made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Linda Licari seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### AGENDA ITEMS

Scheduled Items:

1. Recap of TAC Presentation 2013-2014 Highlights to FUSD School Board.

--Consensus from TAC that former Chairperson Antoinette Schlobohm and Joseph Siam did an awesome job with input from TAC.

--TAC understands the recommendation of peer-to-peer training for staff that needs help with technology.

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### 2. Discuss and advise on purchase of Chromebooks.

David Thornley introduced himself as Assessment Coordinator for FUSD and stated he was here to speak on behalf of the Common Core Steering Committee’s recommendation to purchase Dell Chromebooks (reference Board Agenda item 13.3 at 2/25/15 meeting). FUSD asked the Board to vote to approve the purchase of 39 carts containing Dell Chromebooks to support the more than 18,000 students testing the spring using funds from the State of California devoted to implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

David noted that FUSD has the equipment that was used last year during Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) pilot testing. With high school testing schedules, pressure for timelines, etc., FUSD needs access to more devices. 80% of the school year must be completed before the commencement of testing for grade 11. With FUSD’s instructional calendar, that means testing must take place after Advanced Placement (AP) testing is complete. School and District staff have concerns about Irvington High School with Quest project deadlines also, so new carts would go a long way to supporting testing in Fremont.

Carts will go to 39 sites that take SBAC assessments -- 35 devices in secondary carts and 30 in each elementary cart. The proposed devices are contained in proposed carts that are different than last year’s purchase, each with a smaller footprint and lighter weight; community members are here at TAC to speak on behalf of the carts. One community member (parent and teacher) uses one of the proposed carts at Millard Elementary (site funds purchase). David noted that consolidating the 39 carts as a testing group only this year would put devices at sites where they are needed most. Following testing, carts would be distributed to sites.

Dell Laptops have to be touched by technicians in order to remove the 2014 SBAC secure browser, install the 2015 secure SBAC browser, and deactivate Windows browser can be pushed out to all devices by one technician from the District Office. Schools have stated they will have different needs (based on devices in existing carts, labs, etc.) by submitting schedules. Strategic planning has sites providing schedules well in advance of testing windows and district deadlines.

Chromebooks have a minimum of 5 manufacturers. Dell is one of the vendors who produce a machine that runs Chromebooks 11. See appendix 1 – table of vendors & specifications for Chromebooks.

This year 34,000 students and all employees can use newly established Google Apps for Education (GAPE) domain; these accounts were not in place last year during the SBAC testing pilot.

The domain is fusdk12.net

Laptop vs Chromebook	
\$700 versus	\$300 each (2 for 1 purchase)
Laptops provide what teachers need (Dells running windows 7)	lightweight, provide what students need
	On fusdk12.net domain, students can collaborate, have apps, access testing platform
pull off, put on secure SBAC browser., disable windows update, For example at Millard takes 4 hours on 90 machines to disable current browsers.	Techs do not have to touch device

During the discussion, concern was expressed regarding the infrastructure at sites—Chromebooks have to be connected to the internet. It was noted that regardless of device, without internet access no student would be able to test.

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Four sites are having business grade internet installations now: Ardenwood, Vallejo Mill, Kennedy High School and Brookvale. Installation at sites is expected to be complete by April 13, 2015.

If purchased, new carts will come with wireless access points.

FUSD has provided bandwidth checks. At Millard with 150 devices connected, they have not had access issues. Discussion regarding access points at other sites continued. It is noted that confusion exists regarding wired access and wireless access.

The most taxing testing environment are our Junior Highs. Our High Schools have centralized domains. If we take a high school cart to another site, the log in is different, students have to find the browser etc. Equalizing the playing field with the secure browser should be a goal at all sites.

Training is planned for Site Coordinators 3/31 and Site Coordinators will train their own staffs at a schedule to be determined by each site's administrator.

Discussion continued with a wide variety of questions from members and guests. 4 GB RAM (Random Access Memory) would be expected to last at least three years. David noted that Mr. Siam could address the possible refresh cycle. With Chromebooks, students have a gateway to the internet. Screen size is 11"-- students will see entire page of material from SBAC. Parents and guests shared comments about screen size.

Teachers are doing projects with PowerPoint and Word. Power and complexity of tools is not as easily accessed on Chromebooks. AHS had a trial class (Geography/Computer Literacy) using the Chromebook environment that was successful. Discussion continued. Teacher comfort has a lot to do with what is being used in the classrooms. Balance of devices is important. Others noted that they look at "what do the students need." Collaboration is now evident, creativity, etc. when students are working in the GAFE environment.

Does Chromebook have a browser? Members mentioned students can use Timeline Creator, Fakebook, and Prezzi as examples of apps that can be used in the Chromebook environment. Yes--Chromebooks accesses a Chrome internet browser. Students can share with teachers and the teacher can conference with students while a project is in progress. One member was glad to hear about all of the possible applications that include collaboration.

Another member stated collaboration is good—we don't want to hold students back as students are using these browsers, apps and programs in their homes.

TAC members asked pricing questions. Our CTO explained Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) pricing. States get together and go through bidding process--FUSD legally able to use this pricing. (Note: Dell Proposal Price was lower than WSCA price). Proposal before board includes the onetime license, which is not an annual fee.

If carts are not being used every day, perhaps usage comes down to training and how comfortable the teacher feels. One member used the "computer like a pencil" analogy. Some sites are looking into attending a mini-Google summit for next year to make teachers comfortable with the technology. One suggestion was for ongoing training to be offered as part of the job. Sites that have computer specialists will have made sure students have skills by the time they reach junior high.

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Questions continued about typing programs (computer specialists created a scaffolded list of skills for students), safe environments on the Google domain (FUSD has a “walled garden”), etc. were all answered by members and guests.

One guest asked about equity of testing environment if a student was using a laptop vs a Chromebook – does it look the same on Dell laptop and Dell Chromebook? Members and guests noted that SBAC reports the testing experience is replicated. Keyboard ergonomics—touchpad, mouse, etc. were also discussed. Headphones and mice will also be purchased—mice are not required for SBAC environment but being purchased due to requests by teachers and to match the carts & peripherals provided last year.

One community member suggested planning network capability much more carefully. CTO noted FUSD is in the high utilization tier from our Internet Service Provider (ISP) who is the Alameda County Office of Education. Service studies note a spike in morning and in early afternoon connections. FUSD has only a 1 gigabit (Gb) connection—our Technology Department is determining the cost to raise to a 10 Gb connection. FUSD is thankful for the community support to plan and establish a network to support devices -- possible due to the passage of Measure E by our Fremont voters. TAC asked additional questions about massive projects. Take in, collaborate and share out is a goal of Common Core. Now students can create from any location were they to have access to the internet.

As the discussion continued, one question was about sharing of information from great student projects. Webquests have been created for grade levels. Teachers have access to shared websites through the Instructional Technology Coordinator. Another parent spoke to the observed increased use of carts on sites.

Another member noted the Chromebook advantage is no need for antivirus software and updates. Chromebooks do have an HDMI port so an external monitor can be linked for example, for a student with the need for larger type due to vision challenges. Smaller machines, like the proposed Chromebooks can go into a smaller cart. Students cannot move carts for liability reasons—so smaller and lighter devices in a smaller and lighter cart make sense. Jeff Downing has comparison pictures of the two carts if anyone would like to view them.

Anne Damron spoke regarding two items: classified employees need GAFE training and she wondered about our Special Education student population using Chromebooks versus laptops. Teachers in the room noted that special education students love using Chromebooks, and noted Chromebooks works with printers (setup to Google cloud print.)

Antoinette Schlobohm made a motion that TAC recommend the purchase of 39 carts of Dell Chromebooks and that TAC support the purchase of carts, wireless access points and associated peripherals that the CTO recommends, and with any remaining Common Core implementation dollars be used to purchase additional technology. Rob Reibenschuh seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion: Two members stated different use case uncomfortable in motion. Supt. Morris believes there is approximately \$500,000 budgeted for refresh technology. Funds for the 39 Chromebook recommendation are onetime Common Core money that will have to be returned to state if not used.

Comments included concern about appearance of “limitless” funds. Standardization of devices is important for technicians. Chromebook works out of the box. It became clear that the motion as stated would not pass.

Other comments concerned the economy of purchase. What do you want to see for sites when we do hardware refresh? Key for administrators to get back to Technology Department regarding needs. One suggestion was to

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involve more teachers in refresh cycle discussions. Joe would like to double order as part of hardware refresh cycle. Many members would like to see separate motions. Dr. Morris explained the origin of the implementation of CC funds was \$6.3 million divided by FUSD into three buckets of approximately 2.1 each for Training, Technology and Instructional Materials related to Common Core. \$526,494.84 was the cost of the Dell Chromebooks proposal presented 2/25/15.

Anne called the question and asked the maker to amend the motion.

An amended motion by Antoinete Schlobohm asked that TAC recommend the proposal to purchase 39 carts, devices, peripherals as initially proposed to the board. Second was by Thom Birbeck. The vote was unanimous—motion carries.

Chairperson Rebecca Smith encouraged members and guest to come to the FUSD Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 when the item will be heard to offer continued support.

### 5. Oral Communications –

Maile Ferreira, District Librarian—District libraries currently use SIRSI, a database that is a library management system. In use since 1998, this “dinosaur program” is not user friendly for students. SIRSI does not do what library staff needs the system to do. The CTO, District Librarian, Director of Purchasing and the Director Curriculum & Instruction, library systems specialists, met and have a timeline proposed to replace SIRSI. Implementation would take place during summer. The Request for Proposals has been prepared and the group is in the process of asking staff to fulfill a “must have” and “nice to have” list. The committee that includes representative LMTS, Teacher Librarians and staff listed above will meet to recommend features FUSD would like to have and the potential for a future TAC agenda item. TAC members are invited to be part of RFP committee for vendor presentations. Committee members made the suggestion for TAC to provide input before and after the RFP. TAC asked for a presentation of system at next month’s meeting.

Ongoing Discussion Items: none discussed

Discussion Items:	Discussion Facilitator:
7.1 FUSD Technology Department Update	Joe Siam, CTO
7.2 TAC Communications with FUSD Board of Education	Antoinette Schlobohm
7.3 Technology Plan	TBD
7.4 Technology Integration and Teacher Professional Development	Rebecca Smith
7.5 Technology Integration and Smarter Balanced Assessments	TBD
7.6 FUSD High Schools Technology Integration Updates	Joe Siam, CTO
7.7 FUSD Junior High Schools Technology Integration Updates	Joe Siam, CTO
7.8 FUSD Elementary Schools Technology Integration Updates	Joe Siam, CTO
7.9 Community Feedback on Technology Integration	TBD
7.10 Funding Sources & Recommendations	TBD

Thom Birbeck asked if there was a method to systematically decide how we can meet on scheduled Mondays. Discussion continued regarding professionalism etc. Members agreed that by accepting committee appointment from the Board of Trustees, that we are all committed to attend scheduled meetings, be on time, and stay on topic.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** Motion by Antoinette Schlobohm/Second by Rob Reibenschuh/ Unanimous Approval to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Next Meeting is Monday, April 13, 2015

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### Appendix 1.

Dell price shown based on purchasing 1288 units (quote from Dell). Pricing on other units was gathered from a web search which shows street price, not official proposed pricing from the manufacturer.

Manufacturer	Model	Display Size	RAM (GB)	Processor	Proc Speed (GHz)	Storage	Wifi	Antenna	Weight (lbs.)
HP	Pavilion 14-q070nr	14	4	Celeron 2955U	1.4	16GB SSD	802.11 a/b/g/n	2x2	4.19
Samsung	XE303C12-A01US	11.6	2	Exyros	1.7	16GB SSD	802.11 a/b/g/n	1	2.43
Acer	C720-2420	11.6	2	Celeron 2955U	1.4	32GB SSD	802.11 a/b/g/n	1x2	2.98
Toshiba	CB35-A3120	13.3	2	Celeron 2955U	1.4	16GB SSD	802.11 a/g/n	1	3.3
Dell	Chromebook 11 (2015)	11.6	4	Celeron N2840	2.16	16GB SSD	802.11 ac/a/b/g/n	2x2	2.91
Lenovo	Thinkpad 11p	11.6	4	Celeron N2930	2.16	16GB eMMC	802.11 ac/a/b/g/n	2x2	3.1