

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Technology Training Center District Office
4210 Technology Drive
Fremont, California 94536
May 5, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order 7:14 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Joe Siam, CTO; David Thornley, Anne Damron, Rob Reibenschuh, Thom Birbeck, Antoinette Schlobohm, Becky Smith, Maile Ferreira, Melissa Heckman, Robert Ho
Absent: R.S. Mukherjee, Robert Herron, Vikram Jung, Samir Desai, Bin Wang, Suzanne Ayriss

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Antoinette Schlobohm with a second by David Thornley; vote was unanimous to approve April 2014 minutes.

Oral Communications—none

1. Director's Report – Joseph Siam

IT Department Structure and New Hires: Joe distributed a hard copy of an organizational chart that has been Board approved for his department. The Goal in the Data department section is to increase cross-training and flexibility. Infrastructure department will have IT Support specialists that will work with hardware inventory & department and technical support. Electronics Technician is the phone people. Multimedia Administrator and Specialist are Walter Garcia and Duke DeLeon. Discussion continued with questions regarding the chart. This plan along with stricter standardization will improve the Customer Service from the Technology Department.

SIS Update: Radhika Agarwal has been providing a lot of data to be migrated (3-1/2 years) but waiting for it to be validated. Training Dates have been penciled in for late June and August. Joe is working to get some of the training as paid training and a schedule will be out as soon as possible.

Wifi update: Ardenwood, Vallejo Mill, Centerville and part of Kennedy—will be going out to bid for Wifi cabling that wireless access points plug into. Discussion continued about SBAC testing and bandwidth issues, charging issues etc.

Correspondence from Student dated March 18, 2014: A student wrote to the department advocating for the use of video games in the school curriculum.

3. Data Dashboard—no progress yet

5. Hardware Refresh Cycle—Not built into the budget yet. Joes asked the group for advice: If we were to be able to buy a large amount of computers in an upcoming cycle, what advice would we give Joe and FUSD?

Several suggestions were made including upgrades for office staff, computer labs, libraries, instructional demands/board policies must change, etc. Discussion continued about the needs at different levels, and classes that are dependent on technology. Members stated that we are always going to have the need for guided teaching. One class set of computers in a secondary library is not enough. FUSD needs to consider needs of Special Education population. Schools would like to have Computer Specialists at each site with the changing needs of Common Core. Consensus

was that FUSD should be providing FTE as well and equipment should be refreshed regularly. Discussion continued that Teacher Librarians might be a good addition at the Junior High level.

In September or October Joe is hoping to move forward a recommendation so TAC will be continuing this discussion including factual data and this topic should be included in a report to the board.

Discussion continued regarding using TipWeb to inventory laptops etc. by scanning the bar codes. Other systems may cost less but it is complicated for staff to run numerous systems.

Status of Google Apps: FUSD went through one year with five pilot schools using Google Drive. This was a sound idea but what was in place wasn't the best. David Thornley is considering a restructure to coordinate with Google, Illuminate, etc. and have ready for deployment in the fall. Tech needs to discuss with Curriculum & Instruction department regarding who gets Gmail at what grade levels, etc. this system is a platform to save work at site and have access from school and home. The ability to use applications across platforms is equitable because all students have access to the same programs.

David did a brief memo of 4 classes at Parkmont using a Google Drive Teacher Dashboard is a paid tool that makes the Google Drive system easier to use. Information will follow student. Is this based on the student ID? Yes, but also name, and class enrollment. As more technology is used, it becomes more apparent that we need a structured, linear system of technology training. David feels that if we went this direction we wouldn't go there without PD and online training modules.

A lengthy discussion regarding technology training, communication tools, etc in our district. Engrade has messaging abilities.

Future Agenda Item:
Board presentation

June Meeting is the first meeting of the Technology Committee year.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 2, 2014
Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.