

Pottsgrove School District

Community Budget Task Force Meeting Minutes

Name of Sub-Committee: Technology

Date of Meeting: February 23, 2011

Admin. Co-chair: Michael Wagman **Community Co-chair:** Les Startzel

Attending:

Jason Allen, Tony Bickert, Michelle Bozzini, Brad Burpee, Marilyn Eaton, Jason Grubbs, Brandon Holmes, Michael Neiffer, Jeremy Pruski, Dave Ramage, Greg Sproule, Les, Startzel (co-chair), Pete Tomaselli, Paula Taylor, Michael Wagman (co-chair), Amanda Wright, Don Young

Topics Discussed:

1. Introductions
2. CPO- The context, purpose and proposed outcome for the committee were explained.
3. Norms & Agenda- Norms for conduct were reviewed for all participants and the agenda for the meeting was explained.
4. Explanation of I Think/We Think Protocol - The committee participants were asked to view the presentation of the K12 Technology Program while at the same time record their thoughts (I thinks) and questions as they viewed the presentation. Following the presentation, they would be given an opportunity to reflect on the information presented as well as collaborate with others. Additionally, they would be asked to report out to the full group prior to leaving the meeting.
5. Presentation of K-12 Technology Program including the following:
 - 8 Member Staff Overview and Their Roles and Responsibilities
 - The Budget was then presented: the last 4 years and next year's proposed budget of \$885, 853.00
 - Expenditures by object were presented: rental equipment; maintenance and repair; new/replacement equipment; software; supplies; professional services; reference materials

- Bang for our Buck: Michael Wagman explained what PGSD has done to tighten up budget- cutting phone costs, cut toner costs, virtualized servers, use of Open source software, eliminated some support contracts, moved to leasing model for computer equipment, extended replacement cycle on district servers, staff is cross-trained and able to take on numerous responsibilities (only 8 staff members in the department)
 - Priorities: Mr. Wagman explained the priorities in the tech department- completion of wireless upgrade, maintenance of 3 equipment leases, implementation of cost effective, portable, interactive classroom technologies
 - Challenges: challenges in technology were presented- aging switches, increased reliance with Online Student Assessments, recent staff reductions, lack of interactive technologies in the classrooms
6. Participants broke off into small groups and were given time for group discussion to complete “we thinks” and to prepare a report out for the rest of the group.
 7. Participants reported out on their questions, suggestions, concerns, additional information needed and possible areas for reduction as summarized below:

Group Reports

The groups reported out – “We think” maybe we should consider...

- Compare costs of leasing Apples vs PCs
- Request for inventory all equipment and distribution
- Examine productivity of laptop usage
- Look into Administrative usage of Apple technology including iPads and iPhones
- Consider iPad benefits at Elementary level
- Take a Technology Tour at next meeting
- Compare costs of Cisco vs Enterasys
- Reduce printing and copying costs by assigning codes to teachers in order to more efficiently monitor ink, toner and paper usage
- Compare hardware costs
- Think of ways to generate more revenue: one suggestion was to sell old laptops to families in need
- Review usage of iPads

The following questions and/or additional information was requested:

- A more detailed description of the budget- a PDF copy of actual budget
- A comparison of computer usage/ equity between buildings
- What is the cost of 250 new computers? (teacher leases will expire soon)
- How can we more effectively vet new technology?
- What is the cost of repairing computers that are no longer being leased?

Outcomes from the Meeting:

- Technology Director and technology staff will research, collect and disseminate requested information prior to the next meeting
- Co-chairs will plan agenda for next meeting that will include a tour of computer and telecommunication infrastructure, review of disseminated documents and discussion of “we thinks” and questions posed.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM

Next meeting date: March 15, 2011