

North Boone Community Unit School District #200
TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

District Office
6248 North Boone School Road
Poplar Grove, IL 61065
Monday, November 15, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Kinser at 5:34 p.m. The following Subcommittee members were present: Dr. Steven Baule, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mrs. Kristi Garman, Mrs. Linnea Lerch, Mrs. Melissa Nachampassack, Mrs. Sharon Olds, Mr. Jerry Rudolph and Mrs. Chris Troller. Absent was: Mrs. Elizabeth Finnegan.

Also present were: Mrs. Kathy Gustafson, Mrs. Jane Lenser, Mr. Randy Porter and Mr. Don Ward.

Audience to Visitors

(No Audience to Visitors)

Dr. Baule thanked everyone in the Technology Department for their diligence and hard work.

Equipment Replacement

Dr. Baule acknowledged Mr. Rudolph for developing a complete inventory of all the technology equipment. However, unfortunately, a back inventory is not available. Although the district does have a lot of computer hardware problems, Dr. Baule preferred not to expand the current computer base until they are all in working order. A reasonable rotation cycle needs to be determined and the rotation data received from other school districts has been unsatisfactory.

The district has purchased 70 computers from PDS this year to replace laptops, shuttles, and 19 computers for Poplar Grove Elementary SmartBoards. The same vendor has agreed to sell us additional computers at the same low price. As the district purchases more SmartBoards, it creates a need for additional computers. Leasing would have no value because the district would have to pay for the machine to make it worthwhile but then also pay the leasing charges.

The Committee recommended that the district purchase 110 additional computers, which falls within the remaining budget, at various times throughout the remaining 2011 fiscal year.

E-mail Limits

Because of the amount of e-mail on all the computers, the e-mail server does not have the space to make a complete backup. Dr. Baule suggested limiting all e-mail accounts to 250 mg. Notices will be sent out automatically when a user has saved 90% of the allowed space, and when the limit has been met, the user can be allowed to continue sending and received e-mail or the user can be cut off until their e-mail is cleaned up. Information on how to download e-mail into Adobe will be distributed. The Committee recommends that the district limits all e-mail accounts to 250 MG.

Network Storage

Similarly, the network servers are running out of space. Again, limits will be set and notices sent out when a user is near their limit. The Committee recommends that the district limits individual's personal storage space on the network to 2 GB.

PowerSchool Update

PowerSchool does not support state reporting, the reason being is that they have customized the reporting for Illinois. PowerSchool is at best a level "B" program and was created for the end user rather than the working product.

MAP, etc.

MAP is one of the more reliable ways of obtaining good student performance data. The 7th grade team will be performing a pilot of the MAP testing next week, and Dr. Baule thanked Mr. Finnegan for volunteering to do this. Mrs. Crawford is managing the process with Messrs. Porter and Rudolph. There will be three testing cycles.

Home Technology Survey

Mrs. Lenser and Mrs. Olds have developed a home technology survey (English and Spanish) that was used for the parent/teacher conference. More responses have been received from the elementary schools than the other schools. This survey should generate a lot of important information on technology in the student's home. One outcome of this survey may be to move toward Google Docs. The use of Google Docs would stop viruses getting into the district system and students would be able to work at home or in school in it. There is no cost to the district or students to use Google Docs, and Mr. Porter has registered North Boone with them. The system requires a staff/student gmail account; however, the district will be able set limits for the account. The current office product used by the district, Microsoft Office, costs the district approximately \$30 per computer.

Other Items of Discussion

Mr. Novak has worked out many of the power problems the Technology Department has identified. Also, the generator the district office had at the middle school will be moved to their new location.

Announcements

The next Technology Subcommittee meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Tom Kinser, Chairperson