

Technology/Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

February 11; 5:30pm

Members in Attendance:

Superintendent	Melissa Thompson
Principal	Bob Antholine
Director of Special Education	Brenda O'Brien
Library, Media, Technology Specialist	Candy O'Connell
Technology Integrator	Chris Evans
Teacher-Second Grade	Reese Simcakowski
Teacher-Fourth Grade	Kelly Cavaiani
Teacher- Spanish	Michele Whaley
Teacher-Art	Rebecca Mork
School Board Member	Rebecca Morrison
School Board Member	Karen Trimble
Parent	Kim Hofkamp
Parent	Brian Yearling
Parent	Michele Koper

- I. **Opening:** A recap of our committee charge and progress from last May until the present was completed and our next steps together as a committee were outlined. Those steps include finalizing the next three year Technology Plan to be approved by the school board and submitted to DPI, review and feedback for the Action Plan on Personalized Student Learning, and to finalize surveys and gather feedback related to our curricular offerings for future planning.
- II. **Review of Action Plan on Personalized Learning:** Melissa Thompson highlighted the plan for the group and then facilitated a conversation to gain feedback in the following areas:
 - a. What do you like about the *Vision for Excellence in Personalized Student Learning*?
 - It is for student knowledge of what they should be learning and it benefits them
 - The plan provides a common language for parents, teachers, and students to discuss learning and progress
 - The timeline is realistic given changes at the state level
 - This is a systems change
 - The plan is aligned with the common core for teachers which creates a focus
 - Focused on 21st century skills and depth of knowledge
 - Detail oriented and not fly by night...the plan is strategic over time and not just following an educational fad
 - It incorporates good pieces of best practices and gets at "what do workers need to know and be able to do?"
 - b. What questions do you have related to this vision?
 - How can we ensure support and professional development for teachers?
 - How can we build a system to learn and grow this system and the newbies that join the staff over time?
 - E-gradebooks and how this will ease communication...Tyler is not set up for this presently
 - Looping...kids who need a mid-year change or meet learning targets...how will the system be flexible to accurately report their progress?
 - How can we work with AHS so that as we become less traditional, it can carry onto high school?

- What do we mean by an Individual Learning Plan at Swallow and how does this look for kids over time/to inform choices for students and/or staff
 - How will we educate kids about standards based grading so that they feel accountable for their learning and have a mastery focus
 - Helping parents understanding what standards based grading is and means and why it is best for kids even though we are very competitive in our community. People must realize this is a different competition-- with yourself and mastering a standard in a class instead of being about the grade and what classmates earned.
 - How to make this manageable for our teachers who have multiple subjects that they teach
 - Define learning targets for our community...what is a learning target and communicate them to parents and kids at PIN Night, conferences, Thursday Folder articles
- c. What forms of communication would best assist parents in knowing this strategy area and our rationale for the emphasis in this strategy area?
- Showing students that at the core this is what is best for them
 - Help teachers see the changing role and new expectations of a teacher which looks more like a coach and less like the more traditional stand and deliver model
 - Demonstrate the grading piece and show what it looks like in action classrooms
 - One page of bullet points to break it down and simplify the information
 - Parent principal chats, Swallow 60
 - Get out ahead of it!
 - Reference where we have gone this year with the Everyday Math piece
 - Leverage surveys to educate people not just to gather information
 - Use PIN night differently to help communicate what learning targets are and how they will be used moving forward
 - Have teachers and parents deliver the message
 - Clarify that this is not overhauling instruction...this is really about assessment, feedback, and the communication about student learning. Instruction should naturally shift to assist students in meeting these higher targets.
 - What do we mean by personalized learning?

III. **Technology Plan for 2013-2016:** Candy O'Connell and Chris Evans presented the progress on the next Tech Plan. An overview of student and parent survey data was also shared that is being used to guide the creation of the technology plan. There are four identified goal areas that include:

- a. Continue to research and implement technology solutions for staff and students as technology advancements occur.
- b. Evaluate and implement information and technology literacy standards and skills for students based on the ISTE NETS-S Technology Standards.
- c. Assess staff needs and deeply embed technology skills within the staff such that each staff member is maximizing the technology resources available in our district.
- d. Plan for and implement state data and information systems.

The plan will be presented to the School Board at this month's Board meeting for approval so that it can be filed with the Wisconsin Department of Instruction.

IV. **Discuss Curriculum Survey on Curricular and Programmatic Offerings:** The committee reviewed an updated draft of a survey that will ultimately be used to gain parent, student, staff, and alumni feedback about our current course offerings and student choice in the course selection process. The suggestions will be used to craft the final survey to come out in the next few weeks.

V. **Moving Forward:** Based on dialogue, the following articles are being shared with committee members.
<http://mashable.com/2013/02/05/teachers-technology-infographic/>

<http://www.districtadministration.com/article/should-stem-become-steam>

<http://www.districtadministration.com/article/what-do-students-really-need-%E2%80%9Cknow>

VI. **Next Steps** are to be determined based on the curriculum survey feedback.

Adjourned at 8:05pm