Technology Oversight Committee Retreat Minutes

Date: April 27, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: University High School College and Career Readiness Center
421 N Arcadia Ave

Members Present: Doug Baker, Cindy Dooling, Andrew Gardner (Vice Chair), Lori Riegel (Chair), Duncan Simpson (Rincon Senior), Yi Xiao Yue (Sabino Senior)

Members Absent: Kristel Foster (Governing Board Member), Harry McGregor, Steve Peters, Michelle Simon

Staff Present: Scott Morrison, Andrea Marafino

CALL TO ORDER – The retreat was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS
• Introductory Activity – Lori led an interactive Q&A activity.
• Explore Case Studies – The committee reviewed case studies of similar school districts to TUSD.
• Bright Spots in TUSD – Committee members and staff shared district accomplishments in IT.
• Discussion of Items Committee Identifies as Necessary for Framework and Small Group Work – The committee broke into teams to discuss the following topics (summaries provided by each group):
  o Network
    – Increase in overall bandwidth (internal and external)
    – Single Point of Failure Internet connection - need diversified connection for redundancy
    – Cycle Replacement for network from core to access points (replacement cost for ITIMI/Zayo fiber end-of-life for Involta core processing)
  o Security
    – Protection for malware/ransomware, protection on/off campus for staff and students
    – Allow students to take home district devices – expansion of VPN secure access to resources
    – Expansion of BYOD pilot program
    – Mobile Device Management
    – Visibility (having the tools to provide vision into how the technology is being using)
    – Penetration Test (annual findings and remediation)
    – Comprehensive Business Continuity Plan for all scenarios (Auditor General requirement)
  o Hardware
    – Backup Strategies
  o Community and Leadership Buy-In, Partnerships with Local Resources
    – Bond Support - Physical common space changes (electrical updates for charging devices and testing accommodations)
    – Programs for Internet access at home
    – Affordability for devices support for students and teachers
    – Teacher Success - Support for additional professional development to support innovation
  o Equity
    – Add detail to Technology Condition Index, add categories of access to describe what they are used for
Universal Design and Access
BYOD - Bringing older / smaller devices / no devices / social stratification
Requirements regarding home internet and device access for older devices
Equity for teacher in PD and planning in practice, not just theory
  • Ethics hotline
  • Rating classes for training
    o “Slack” community for questions, for business / groups

Professional Development and Staffing Needs
  • PLC
  • Training for Office 365 and Synergy
  • Remember we have 86 sites; need early adopters
  • Train-the-trainer, learn from peers and staff
  • IT Academy
  • Support for ongoing PD at branches, time and money invested, protected from administrators, investment in new teachers
  • Specialization and staffing support

Curricular and Instructional Framework, including Learning Management System
  • Evidence-based practices that prepare students for 21st century skills and higher learning settings
  • Must fit into USP, must be feasible with technology district already has
  • When administration looks at mid-year assessments, can look at ways to jumpstart change to get all students where they need to be
  • Knowledge that some faculty and staff will embrace change and technology and some will not
  • All students can learn no matter what, technology as vehicle for differentiated instruction
    • Use of Office 365 modules
    • PLCs as cross-section of teachers across district, not just across one school
    • Teachers instrumental in building appropriate PD
    • Some funding from Deseg for appropriate PD that is teacher-driven
    • Ask for IT Academy to come back
    • Explore successes at Mansfield, STEM at PVHS, Booth-Fickett 1-to-1
  • Share early successes across multiple modes and secure organizational commitment to plan, as well as knowledge that things might appear to get worse as they improve (example of AZMERIT transition)
    • More support and resources to James Butler’s team and TTLs

Next Steps – The committee discussed steps to keep this work moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT – The retreat as adjourned at 2:05 p.m.