Date: November 30, 2016
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Place: TUSD Deputy Superintendent’s Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Doug Baker, Andrew Gardner (Vice Chair), Harry McGregor, Steve Peters, Lori Riegel (Chair), Duncan Simpson (Rincon Senior), Yi Xiao Yue (Sabino Senior)

Committee Members Absent: Cindy Dooling, Michelle Simon, Kristel Foster (Governing Board Member)

Staff Members Present: Scott Morrison, Andrea Marafino, Kevin Startt

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of October 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Doug moved to approve the minutes, Duncan seconded the motion and all approved.
- TOC Chair/Co-Chair Elections – Doug moved to re-elect Lori Riegel as Chair and Andrew Gardner as Vice Chair, Steve seconded the motion and all approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Technology Procurement Update
  - TOC Process for Updating the Board – With the exception of the TOC’s Annual Report to the Governing Board, there is not currently an official mechanism for communicating monthly updates to the Board if a Board member is not present at the TOC meeting. As a result, if there is going to be a technology item on the Board agenda, the TOC will communicate to the board electronically. If TOC members participate in an evaluation committee, that will be communicated to the Board electronically as well.
  - Upcoming Board Meeting - No technology-related RFPs have been submitted for approval.
  - RFP for E-Rate Eligible Network Upgrades – RFP 18-02-20 was posted on November 23 and is due back on December 22. Walk-throughs are scheduled for December 6-8. Doug, Harry, and Duncan expressed continued interest in serving on the evaluation committee in January.
  - RFP for Mass Media Notification System Replacement – Mass Notification System RFQ 14-76-C14 was awarded to ParentLink (acquired by Blackboard) utilizing SAVE Cooperative Contract #13-31 MP. This contract has been renewed through June 30, 2016 at which time an RFP/RFQ will be considered. Andrew is interested in serving on committee if an RFP is conducted.
  - RFP for Computer Usage Tracking Software – The district still plans to conduct a formal RFP for this software. Cindy and Harry are interested in serving on the evaluation committee.

- Update on Collaborative Digital Curriculum Planning Document – Steve summarized the recommendations that were made to the Superintendent to develop an Instructional Technology Plan for TUSD (see attached). Lori, Steve, Andrew and Duncan agreed to form a subcommittee to collaborate on a Digital Curriculum Planning Document.

- Synergy Update – Duncan pointed out that one of his teachers has been unable to create per-student grading scales (e.g. for IEP students). Scott noted that while there is not a per-student grading scale feature in Synergy, there are several work-arounds, such as exempting assignments, overriding final grade, etc. Even though teachers can only have one grading scale per class, there are ways to account for individual student work within the gradebook and teachers should contact the TS Help Desk for assistance with this.

- Computer Shortage at RUHS Library – Duncan also noted that there is a shortage of computers in the RUHS Library and not all computers have printers installed. Scott stated that he would follow up with the site to determine if the COWs could be checked out to the librarian and used in the library when they are not being used in the classroom. The machines without printers are in the process of being reimaged to address the printer issue.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – None present.

SCHEDULE NEXT TOC MEETING – The next meeting was scheduled for January 11, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.
Technology Oversight Committee
Instructional Technology Planning Strategy Recommendations

To: The TUSD Instructional Technology Committee
FROM: Steve Peters. TOC Member and Coordinator, Greater Arizona eLearning Association
RE: Recommendations to develop TUSD Instructional Technology Plan

Background
On September 28, 2016 Steve Peters, Coordinator of the Greater Arizona eLearning Association and the Arizona Innovative Learning Collaborative met with Dr. HT Sanchez, TUSD Superintendent.

Also in attendance was GAZeL Board Members Alan Kost and Michael Amick. Scott Morrison was also there and Lori Riegel attended the meeting for awhile. GAZeL arranged the meeting representing the Greater Arizona eLearning Association, not as a representative of the TOC, although Dr. Sanchez was aware that I was a member of the TOC. I went to talk about creating an Instructional Technology Plan and Committee, with digital curriculum being one component.

Alan Kost is a professor of Optical Science at the University, and Michael Amick is Vice President of Online Education at Pima. I took them because Alan is a member of an Innovative Learning Group on campus with representatives of all the colleges on campus. They are looking at things such as supporting faculty in use of technology in the classroom, innovative learning spaces, Open Education Resources (OER), maker spaces and more. I recently met the person who is coordinating that project and spoke to him about how we can connect K-12 to that group. I invited Michael because Pima recently received a $100,000 OER grant to demonstrate the use of Open Education Resources for a degree program. The use of OER for education resources for digital curriculum and textbook replacement is a major national trend saving schools and students millions of dollars. In case you are not familiar with OER, I have included a description of OER at the end of this document.

The Agenda included:

- Innovative Learning and the GAZeL Innovative Learning Collaborative
- University of Arizona Innovative Learning Group
- Open Education Resources and Pima Community College OER Initiative
- Instructional Technology Planning and development of a TUSD Instructional Technology Plan
Innovative Learning and the GAZeL Innovative Learning Collaborative

- Arizona Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives (see attached Infographic)
- Creating a Culture of Education Innovation
- Meetings with Pima CC and Dr. Lambert
- Innovative learning – eLearning and so much more - embraces new ideas and technologies such as:
  - blended learning
  - innovative learning spaces
  - individualized self paced learning
  - competency and outcome based education
  - flipped classrooms
  - adaptive learning models
  - Maker Spaces, 3d printing, coding, robotics
  - project based learning
  - more

University of Arizona Innovative Learning Group

Open Education Resources and Pima Community College OER Initiative

TUSD Instructional Technology Strategic Planning

- Instructional Technology Planning
- Sanctioned Instructional Technology Strategic Planning Committee
- Digital Curriculum as component of Instructional Technology Plan/Strategy
- District commitment and support including Instructional Technology Planning Manager - need funding
Meeting Outcome

During the meeting I expressed my frustration that for the past 3-4 years I have sat in multiple meetings talking about Instructional Technology but there was no clear path on how the district would proceed. To make a long story short, Dr. Sanchez concurred that it is now time for the district to create an Instructional Technology plan, but that Digital Curriculum would be one component, since there are multiple issues to be addressed to effectively implement digital curriculum.

He wants to move ahead with developing an Instructional Technology plan but he wants to use the TOC to make it happen. He does not want to have another committee that he or Scott would need to engage in. He said it is fine to include other people who are not appointed members of the Committee. I told him that if we are going to make this happen it would not be feasible without district support and that meeting an hour at a time is not productive. He promised to provide some funding for a facilitator to facilitate a planning workshop and perhaps provide additional support. He wants the TOC to present a proposal and suggestions for a facilitator.

Instructional Technology Plan May Include:

- Vision
- Technology-Enabled Classrooms
- Teacher Professional Development
- District and School Strategic Plans
- Digital Curriculum Alignment & Instructional Support
- Vetting technology
- Technology Education Standards
- Assessment and Analytics
- Policies – 1:1, student access, BYOD
- Equity – access to technology & connectivity home and school
- Infrastructure and security
- University Research
- Pre-service Teacher Training
- Teacher Incentive Programs
- Capital and M&O Funding
- Center for Classroom Technology
- Research and Evaluation
- Technical Support
- Facilities
- Business Support and Community Engagement

Also see Microsoft Construct Attached as Example
So Where To From Here?

A suggested Vision: TUSD will be a technologically advanced district where technology is fully integrated into the curriculum and instruction and utilized to meet specific learning objectives, transform education and support innovative teaching and learning for all students.

The TOC will take the lead in developing a purposeful, research based and pedagogically aligned district Strategic Instructional Technology plan and implementation strategy that address hardware, software, connectivity and Internet access, curriculum alignment and integration, teacher training, equity, funding, professional development, and more.

Development and implementation of an Instructional Technology Plan and digital curriculum is a transformative process. All segments of the community need to buy into the process; it can’t just be a few members of the TOC. The district, including the Superintendent and the Board, need to be committed to engaging in the transformative process and that the TOC, instead of researching and developing an Instructional Technology plan and digital curriculum, needs to research and make recommendations about what the process needs to look like and how it will improve teaching and learning in the district.

There are a number of national organizations from Microsoft, to the Learning Accelerator, The Learning Counsel, the International Society for Technology In Education, and others that have researched this issue, have developed guides on digital curriculum and the transformative process of developing and implementing an Instructional Technology plan. And there are many districts that have, or are going through that process. We also several nationally recognized people in Tucson and Arizona experienced in these processes.

TOC Proposal

For me there are a couple of things for us to address if we are to move ahead and not waste our time. First is district commitment. Second is the TOC Modus operandi.

Every report I see, and organizations I talk with, about schools and districts implementing Instructional Technology Plans and Digital curriculum starts with a vision and commitment from the district. So, here is my suggestion. I think that the TOC can produce a document/plan to submit to the Superintendent and the Board that would outline what Instructional Technology is, how it will benefit teaching and learning, who needs to be involved in development of the plan, the process on how the district should proceed in developing the plan, and what resources are need. We then need to be an advocate with the Superintendent and the Board to move ahead with development of the plan. There are a number of organizations that have done considerable research on a process and framework, such as the Microsoft framework, so we won’t be starting from scratch.
The second issue is the TOC. If we are serious about engaging in meaningful work around Instructional Technology we need to change how the TOC functions. We now have a number of TOC members interested in this issue. **I think we need to have a subcommittee that will meet separately from the regular TOC meeting to do meaningful planning.** And, I think we should include other people, curriculum staff, teachers, students, other people in Tucson with expertise, etc. I don’t think we can make progress having this as one of a number of agenda items on our once a month TOC meeting, even if we do homework outside the committee meetings. Just a reminder that Dr. Sanchez has said that he wants to see an Instructional Technology plan, that the TOC should take the lead, and that he will commit funds to help facilitate that, but wants the TOC to submit a request to him and maybe the Board for support.

So here are my suggestions:

- That the TOC commit to developing the strategy I outlined above, and that we establish a TOC subcommittee. I have names of a number of other people that we would want to involve.
- We should invite the Superintendent to a TOC meeting to talk about his thoughts and commitment
- That we invite Karen Kopec, TUSD Deputy Superintendent to a meeting. Karen is a former consultant for New Tech Networks that has been consulting with schools, districts and communities across the country to develop innovative public schools. FYI **Mary Belle McCorkle Academy of Excellence K-8** is a NewTech school and the district is considering at least one other school
- I will arrange a video conference with the Learning Accelerator that has done a lot of research and consulting on these issues. I will also arrange a meeting with Jamie Casap, an educational evangelist with Google who lives in Phoenix. Jamie travels the world consulting and speaking at conferences. He is well known in the Ed Tech community in Arizona. He told me he would be willing to come to Tucson if we are interested. I can work on a video conference for the next TOC meeting if you want.
FYI Open Education Resources Background

Across the country school districts, community colleges and universities are adopting Open Education Resources (OER) that are free open licensed resources, available at little or no cost, that can be used for teaching, learning, assessment, or research such as textbooks, course content, simulations, games, and applications. OER permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open Education Resources can improve student learning, save money, provide more personalized learning opportunities, drive equity by providing all students access to high-quality learning materials, make course materials more affordable for university and community college students who otherwise cannot afford to buy expensive textbooks or other course materials, allow districts to update learning materials when new developments occur, empower teachers to adapt and customize learning materials without breaking copyright laws.

OER enables education institutions to reallocate significant funds currently spent on inflexible, static learning materials to resources and activities that accelerate the transition to digital learning such as professional development, technology infrastructure upgrades to support digital learning, and funding for educators who curate and create OER educational materials.

The Arizona Innovative Learning Collaborative is developing an OER Network that will promote the adoption of OER in Arizona and connect OER innovators engaged in OER initiatives that will enable them to implement OER to effectively address the needs of their organizations and communities. The Arizona OER Network will work in collaboration with the United States Office Of Instructional Technology GoOpen Initiative, and the Arizona Department Of Education (ADOE). ADOE has been designated one of 25 states participating in the US GoOpen initiative. Pima Community College, the University of Arizona, Scottsdale Community College, Sunnyside, and other institutions are some of the institutions implementing OER in Arizona.

Here are a couple of Arizona examples:

- Pima Community College is the only community college in Arizona, and among only 38 in the U.S. to receive a $100,000 grant from Achieving the Dream to create online degree programs using high-quality, open educational resources (OER).

- Maricopa Millions OER Project with a goal of saving Maricopa Community College students $5 million over 5 years. The goal of the Maricopa Millions project is to radically decrease student costs by offering LOW COST or NO COST course materials with no additional cost to the student beyond tuition. These might include OER, licensed online resources purchased by the MCCCD for student access, etc.

Thanks for consideration of these recommendations.

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Innovation, Technology, Collaboration

Arizona Innovative Learning Collaborative
Join us in developing the Arizona Innovative Learning Collaborative that will provide opportunities for collaboration among learning innovators in K-12 and higher education, libraries, business, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Innovative Ideas and New Technologies
Participate in creating a Culture of Education Innovation that will promote and support adoption of innovative ideas and new technologies that can transform education, corporate training and workforce development.

Imagine What We Can Do If We Collaborate

Our Arizona Collaborative
Imagine what we can accomplish if innovators in education, business, government, libraries and nonprofit organizations collaborate to:
- Share ideas and resources
- Exchange best practices
- Pursue joint projects and funding opportunities
- Facilitate research opportunities
- So much more

How We Will Make A Difference
- State and district Innovative Learning plans
- Virtual Laboratories for Science And STEM Education
- Makerspaces and Innovative Learning Spaces Network
- Games For Education and the Workplace
- Culture of Education Innovative Learning Conference
- Open Education Resources Network
- Cooperative professional development
- Pima Community College STEM Innovation Challenge
- More

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Education Transformation Framework

The Microsoft Education Transformation Framework helps fast track system-wide transformation by summarizing decades of quality research. It includes a library of supporting materials for the ten critical components of transformation, each underpinned by an executive summary and an academic whitepaper detailing global evidence. This provides a short-cut to best practice, speeding up transformation and avoiding the mistakes of the past. Microsoft also offers technology architectures and collaborative workshops to suit your needs.

microsoft.com/education/leaders