

Minutes of Division Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

A meeting of the advisory members was held on Monday, April 7, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the School Board Office.

Mr. Rickey W. Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology called the meeting to order and each member present was welcomed to the meeting. At this time each member was introduced.

Mr. Parker allowed a few moments for the committee to review the minutes of the previous meeting. The committee submitted no corrections to the minutes and approval was accepted.

The following members of the committee were in attendance:

Rickey W. Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology
Cathy Scolpini, Lead Instructional Technology Resource Teacher
Darrell B. Wilkerson, Jr., Lead Technician of Information Technology
Dr. Lillian Holldand, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Ann Cassada, Director of Secondary Education
Rebecca Smith, Director of Elementary Education
Ross Johnson, Community representative
Sherri Hayward, Brosville Elementary School parent
April Oakes, Kentuck Elementary School parent.

The following members were not in attendance:

Jimmie Tickle, Principal, Career and Technical Center
Patricia Compton, Community representative/secondary-Gretna High
Harold Williams, Tunstall Middle School teacher and parent.
Clarissa T. Knight, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Clarke Scott, Director of Middle Education
Lynne Shelton, Gretna Middle School parent
Sandy Simpson, Gretna Elementary School parent.

Mr. Parker opened the meeting with questioning the committee to express concerns to the group at this time. No comments expressed from the advisory council at this time. The consideration of a virtual meeting was presented to the group by Mr. Parker.

Mrs. Cathy Scolpini, Lead Instructional Technology Resource Teacher addressed the following topics:

All certified staff of Pittsylvania County Schools' staff are receiving training on the following topics provided through the support of Dr. Lillian Holland:

i-Safe's "I-Learn Online," an online tutorial provided to the teachers concerning internet safety.

“Copyright and Fair Use in Education,” this information was to provide a better understanding to teachers of copyright laws and how to legally use online materials, videos, and other media in the classroom.

Technology Surveys will be conducted in April to gather feedback from the teaching staff on the curriculum and the internet.

Mr. Parker mentioned the present email system, Microsoft Exchange Server and the effects of the expense with the initiative of the new operating system. The budget is not increasing and the initiatives for budget will not come in until May. Fixed cost is very important and would take approximately \$30,000.00 to make the changes to present email system.

Mr. Darrell Wilkerson, Lead Technician, addressed the following items from the agenda:

Pittsylvania County Schools is considering an alternate email system available through Google with a minimal charge to the system. Google Apps is the system being discussed. Sharing documents in Google Apps will be allowed among PCS employees. It will work with Outlook. Mr. Parker reminded the committee that this is a community oriented company and it is free but no guarantee if they decide to charge for service. When you send an email of confidential matter it is on the system. Emails of serious nature can be captured. Laws suits do occur and the courts are involved. With this product there will be little down time as our cost continues to increase and this is a good way to run the system. Google has many servers to pickup the down time that we experience meaning no downtime for PCS. Dr. Holland questioned the training for the staff of the new system. The present AUP may not be a responsibility for PCS but to Google for the security.

The improvement of I-Prism gives the opportunity for students’ logins and will allow students to access their own documents from various locations. This will allow detailed reporting when necessary without knowing the seating arrangements of the lab. This also prevents the deleting of files on the system. It will be based on ID and the teachers will be able to control the logins. Google will not allow music to be downloaded, mostly office documents, such as; excel spreadsheets, and pictures. Ann Cassada stated that we need to do this if it is saving money for the system with training provided to the staff.

Mrs. Cathy Scolpini, Lead Technology Resource Teacher, discussed the following:

Blackboard course management system is presently being used and will continue through the 2008-2009 school session. Some of the school systems are using this and some are not. A very expensive system. Moodle is a system that we are looking at for future use and a lot of school systems are saving a great deal of money using this program.

The projector project has installed over 100 projectors in the last school year. The project has been very successful. We used additional monies from unexpected increase of student enrollment to purchase the projectors for the classrooms. State technology will not allow the funds to be used for purchase of projectors and must be purchased with the local match of these funds.

Several pilot projects are in process at this time. Interactive Achievement testing at Chatham and Dan River Middle Schools are using the program. This allows instant feedback and

is a very expensive program. Also a pilot project is using 16 desktop systems to teach a typing class at Dan River Middle School due to the fact that this particular school does not have a technology resource teacher as the other middle schools. The state will allow money to be used for purchase of this equipment. This is a functional way to use the system rather than the use of the lab.

A personal classroom response system, "CPS," is being used in the eighth grade math class at Gretna Middle School to increase involvement and to assist the teacher in gathering student performance immediately. This system was received through the Blue Ridge East Technology Consortium.

Mr. Parker summarized the meeting of today with the top items on the agenda for the 2008-2009 school session:

First the changing to student logins, Microsoft Office Exchange to Google Apps, and Blackboard to Moodle. This will allow matching monies to be used for projects in the classroom.

Dr. Lillian Holland expressed the appreciation to the staff of the department for discovering new possibilities for the students and teachers of Pittsylvania County Schools.

Mrs. Ann Cassada thanked the instructional technology resource teachers with the virtual program and received less calls from the state concerning the program.

Mr. Parker expressed that feedback is very important to the committee and appreciation for those attending today's meeting with such busy schedules. A virtual meeting is a possibility in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.