

Jacob Wismer PTO
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2011

President's Report: Robin called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. There were 16 people in attendance.

Introductions were made.

Robin reviewed the agenda.

Robin asked Derek Porter and Steve Langford to give the technology update first.

BSD Technology Committee Guest, Steve Langford: Derek Porter reported that he has been working on the District Technology Committee with Steve Langford, the Beaverton School District's Chief Information Officer. They have spent many hours writing a plan for technology for the school district for 2011-2014. Derek then introduced Steve.

Steve reported that the District took 3 years pulling together information on where the district stood with regard to technology in each of the schools. Currently there are 17K computers in the district. 80% of these are MAC, and 20% of these are Windows. 18% of these computers are more than 8 years old. 44% of these are more than 5 years old. The oldest computer they found in the District is 13 years old. At 6-7 years the computers become more expensive to repair than to replace. However, the District does not have money in the budget to replace computers, so they continue to repair them.

There are 52 sites in the District. There are 6 people who support/repair these 17K machines for the District. They have created a system to image these machines regardless of whether it is MS or Apple. The district has made it easy to support MS or Apple for the teachers and schools. They encourage the teachers to use what meets their needs.

The equity across the District is very different. Some schools have overhead projectors and computers in every classroom. Other schools share just a few computers. We need to find a system that provides a baseline of equity across the District. However, we need the flexibility for schools to incorporate more technology if they wish.

The National average is 3.8 students per computer. Oregon's average is 4.5 students per computer. BSD's goal is 4 students per computer. Beaverton School District has \$0 next year for computer purchases. Portland School District spends \$1 Million per year for computer replacements.

The District is putting together a technology plan with several goals:

- They are looking at an electronic plan profile for K-12. They want to create a resource that marries student achievement data with planning data. The primary focus has been at the secondary level.
- They are working on programs that allow secondary students to take online classes. Currently they have a program like this at Sunset HS.
- The project team feels that the communication from the District to the parents on the web needs a lot of work. Need to create better tools, especially for schools that don't have the resources.
- Another big component of the plan is to implement a replacement plan in the cycle. There are a lot of very old computers in the district that are slow and breaking. Last year the District spent \$0 on machines. It would take about \$4Million per year to put 4 students on a computer with a 3 year replacement cycle.

The District has 3 big infrastructure issues:

1. The networks for the schools are built like those built for homes – we need to build a wireless network across the district.
2. The library system is 7 years old and needs to be replaced.
3. (ESIS) Education Student Information System was purchased by another company and this system is going to be discontinued. This system handles bus scheduling, as well as other functions. The vendor, Pearson, has told us that we have to decide whether to stay with them or to go to another vendor by 2012. Steve is working with them to convince them that this is not enough time. We need to figure out if this new system meets our needs, or if we will go out with an RFP (Request for Proposal). If we go with their system, then: our licenses will transfer, our maintenance fee will go up by \$60K per year, and we would avoid a \$2M initial cost. The problem is that we do not know if this system will meet our needs. An important component of a Student Info System is how easy it is for parents to interface with it.

The District needs: a wireless system that works, a new library system, a new student information system. How will we pay for this? The Beaverton School District has asked the School Board to look at local options to fund this.

Steve said that there is a need for desk tops and laptops for teachers and for testing. If we have a structure for cycling out desktops and laptops then that is good. Students cannot go to college w/o their own laptop. We need to prepare students for this.

The Canby School District has given out iPod touches and is having the children use them for writing and reading back. They are seeing a lot of student growth and gains. It is great for the students to write, then read, then listen back what they read and make changes. The world is about to become filled with “tablets”. The iPod is the 1st tablet. There is a growing body of data around iPod touches. This is an area to explore. The district is going to meet with the Principals of the Title 1 schools to try to put together a program around iPods to support these schools.

Collin asked if Steve would suggest that we spend money on SmartBoards or should we be looking at some other technology. Steve’s answer is that the best technology is the one that is going to be used. It depends on the expertise of the teachers and their ability to use the technology. What makes sense? If you are seeing effectiveness with SmartBoards, then grow and use that. There is no one right answer. Take a look at what is working. If SmartBoards are being used effectively, then continue to use that to engage and grow the students. It is dependent on the passion and ability of the staff that each school has on board.

Steve said that before Jacob Wismer makes a large investment to be sure you call the District to see if they can support it. Steve felt like the iPads and iTouches are a good investment. Steve said that he could pull a report that tells us what computers Jacob Wismer has in the way of computers: how many we have, what kind they are, and how old they are. This would help Jacob Wismer going forward in making technology purchases.

Steve said not to buy a wireless network, because the District is going to do that for us. There is a federal program that will pay for the infrastructure. There are 50 sites that need to be set up with wireless and only 3 people who can set up the wireless networks at each school. The hope is to have the high schools done by September. It takes more than a week to do each site. We want to build a structure where staff can use their own computers if they want to. Part of the enterprise wide wireless system will have to include a filter that keeps students from having access to the entire internet. We want to create an environment with enhanced learning, not one with distractions.

Derek told us that Mobi is a device that is like a mouse that you can hold in your hand and control the computer. It lets you access anything on your computer at any time while moving around the room. It is great for keeping the students engaged. The students can use it as well.

Goal over time is to get schools to a baseline. Steve has not figured out how to do this yet. What does a 21st century classroom look like? A school district in SW Washington has created a 21st century classroom. This may become our model.

Steve brought a copy of the technology plan to leave with Joan. This can also be found on the web.

President's Report: Robin reported that we have started the process of recruiting for chair positions for next year.

Secretary's Report: Jana motioned to approve the January minutes. Geralyn seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

Principal's Report: Joan reported that the Sis/Bro author visit was really good. It was wonderful. They were very talented, entertaining, as well as educational.

We are still looking at a huge budget shortfall to the 2011-2012 school year. Right now the shortfall is \$36 million. Joan will continue to keep us updated.

Melissa Gilley asked why we have had so many changes in the upper parking lot. She also expressed concern about the lack of proactive communication to the parent community prior to the new changes, causing a negative parent reaction throughout the community. Joan responded stating that there is a building safety committee as well as staff and parents who are concerned with people who are making illegal u-turns, parking illegally (i.e. - parking in the firelane), as well as taking cuts in front of others. Joan had agreed to work with Stoller Middle School and the Sheriff's Department to take care of those who are parked illegally, etc.

Collin said that he brought this to the District's attention because he was concerned about the safety of the children. Julie Maederer said that there were also parents complaining about the safety of children. Some parents have been refusing to move when they are parked in illegal spots. Other parents were running late, parking in the handicapped spot, letting their children out, and then having their children walk across the lane in front of cars who do not necessarily see them or expect to see them.

Tobey said that it would be nice if we could look to the future and find ways to reduce the congestion that results from so many people dropping off and picking up their children. Colin responded that the district has implemented a safe route program to promote more walking at some schools (such as West TV?) but that with budget cuts, he wasn't sure if this would be continued or expanded to other schools.

Melissa asked how often the Safety Committee meets when they meet, and if anyone is welcome to attend. Joan responded that they meet once a month and that anyone is welcome to attend.

VP of Fundraising: Geralyn reported that we made \$160 from the Noodles and Company and \$285 from the Piccolo Mondo shopping day.

Our next fund raiser will be March 1st at Pizza Schmizza. We will receive 35% of sales if we provide 1 person to serve food and bus tables.

Next Friday February 18th is the next deadline to get the Box Tops turned in.

VP of Community Events: Jana reported that Family Fun Night was a success. Dawn is requesting more board games for next year.

Art Literacy: Melissa reported for Liz that the Celebrate the Arts Music program is almost full – there are still a few spots left (about 10 minutes of performing time.) A draft edition of the program will be finished on

Thursday night and sent to all participants. It will be another great evening with students, teachers, and parents performing – Thursday, February 24th from 6-8 pm in the Library.

Art literacy is doing well with the Chinese brush painting project for Yani Wang. Final day for the Wang project will be February 28th. Training for Salvador Dali will happen on Monday, March 7th. The Dali project will be a collage in the Surreal style.

Volunteer Coordinators: Margaret reported that they sent out an email to all of the chairs to see if they would be chairing again next year and asking for suggestions for replacements if they are not returning.

In January 1085 hours were logged for volunteers. We are at 5437 total hours for the school year.

Member at Large: Robin reported for Melanie that the next thing on the calendar is the Staff Appreciation Lunch on Friday March 11.

Treasurer's Report: Tobey reported that not much has changed in the budget. There is a budgeting change. The money for the Student Store and the 5th Grade Send-off has traditionally gone through the school via the student body fund. Going forward this money will be handled by the PTO.

Site Council/LSC: The LSC met on February 2nd. They approved building use permits through June only. In May, we will be advertising for building use for next year. Julie will begin to accept building use requests on May 1st.

It will be suggested to the Passport Team to make changes in Passport where 3rd grade would learn states first, then countries. The 4th graders would learn Portland landmarks before learning the countries. By 5th grade the Passport program will be an option as they will have done this program for several years.

Geralyn expressed concern about making Passport optional in 5th grade if the children are doing states and Portland landmarks the first few months of each year, then these students would not ever see some of the countries that are studied at the beginning of the year.

Lynn said that the Passport Committee would work to make sure that the maps were rotated that the students are exposed to each of the maps.

Arts Edge Committee: Melissa reported that she has collected some of the artwork from the classrooms. Not all teachers have chosen which artwork they will display. So far, all of the artwork that has been collected has been mounted. Melissa has contracted with Carrie Moore, the Artist in Residence, to come to Celebrate the Arts. Melissa is working on getting a contract to Joan soon.

The installation for Celebrate the Arts is from 3:00 – 4:00 on February 24th. Melissa has plenty of volunteers for this. So far there is no one signed up for clean-up. Most of the clean-up involves moving the 3-D projects out of the hallways.

Mrs. Edens is going to have some hands-on art projects set up for the students to do in the art room.

Celebrate the Arts is on Thursday February 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

PTO Liasons: Collin gave the following grade reports:

2nd – Working on inquiry science things

3rd grade – The wax museum was last month

4th grade – The big thing last month was their state fair.

5th grade – Went on the Intel field trips that Intel paid for. They are working on BizTown.

Jane and team want to thank PTO for funding the Sis/Bro Author Visit.

PE – 3rd grade/5th grade moving into annual fitness training. 4th and 5th graders just finished a volleyball unit.

SmartBoard / Technology: David reported that he and his team got together and would like to get the Mobies. They are waiting for a final quote from the vendor.

New Business: Collin addressed the board with regard to the Specials classes and budget cuts. Collin presented a document explaining the benefits of the Specials programs. Collin asked if he could send this document to the PTO to then be sent out to the Jacob Wismer community. Robin asked Collin to send it to her and she would see that it is passed on to the Jacob Wismer families.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:01.