



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee
Littleton Public Schools
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2006**

ATTENDANCE: Barrett Blank, Troy Greenwood, James Morgese, Jim Stephens, Laura Biewick, Larry Jewett, Laura Jones, Donovan O'Dell, Matthew Shankle, Craig Herrera, Bill Reddig, Corey Brueckner, Jennifer Phillips, Crystal Reid, Anne Smith, Pam Bump, Shirley Trees, Joyce Testerman, Dayle Redman, Amy Oaks, Renee Howell

ITS STAFF: Lowell Ensey, Boni Hamilton

TELE-CONFERENCED IN: Stuart Williams, Terry Petrie

SPECIAL SPEAKERS: Scott Murphy, Stan Scheer, Dan Maas

ABSENT: Marc Nestorick, Michelle Morris, Melinda Ness, Chuck Clopine, Briggs Buckley, Spencer Zepelin

Introduction:

The Educational Technology Advisory Committee was welcomed and thanked for joining us at the first meeting of the E-TAC committee 2006-2007 by Dr. Lowell Ensey.

Dr. Ensey, current CIO of Littleton Public Schools spoke about several important projects and initiatives that have been put in place within the LPS school district within the last few years:

- The strong infrastructure that supports the technology needs of the LPS district.
 - Network Standardization
 - Server Standardization
 - Workstation Standardization

- The expansion of the Wide Area Network which changed T-1 lines and routers to fiber and high speed switches necessary to accommodate the increasing number of users on LPS networks and the Internet.

- The implementation of consistent district wide standardization of hardware and software.

Dr. Ensey worked with the TAC (Technology Advisory Committee) committee for the past 3 years which was a district advisory committee to the ITS department. The TAC was disbanded and a new ETAC committee was formed and convenes for the first time tonight. The committee will develop charges with the Board in a partnership to support the districts direction. Dr. Ensey announced that he will be retiring at the end of June 2006 and wished the committee well.

LPS Strategic Direction:

Dr. Stan Scheer, Superintendent of Littleton Public Schools was introduced.

Dr. Scheer spoke about the number one challenge in education today.

- The significance of all kids having the same learning opportunity, in addition to the importance of teaching the ethics and responsibility that is relative to the incredible amount of cyber sources kids can use today.

- Need for LPS to strive toward 21st century learning; setting precedence; implementing industry accepted best practices.

Dr. Scheer described the enthusiasm and creativity of an internal grant he made available to schools. A million dollar one-time funding incentive that was offered to the schools from bond interest proceeds, schools came in with innovative and creative ways to use the funding centered on technology.

He further stated that it is the goal of LPS to foster methods, and best practices of teaching that will influence, enhance and improve student learning. Also to develop ideas and creative thinking strategies that can bring about some real possibilities for “teaching with technology” implementation.

Dr. Scheer concluded his remarks with the announcement that he too is departing LPS and also wished ETAC well. Dr. Scheer fielded a question from the committee as to whether he would form a similar group as ETAC in his new school district in California, which he responded that indeed he would.

Introductions and Comments:

Scott Murphy was introduced. Mr. Murphy served in a number of roles within the LPS district for past 17 years. He currently serves as Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and CFO until July 1, 2006 when he will be the new Superintendent of Schools for LPS.

Scott underscored the importance of having leaders in the LPS community to contribute credibility and perspective in guiding the expansion of technology within our school system. “It is our hope that this committee can bring clarity to what our vision of technology is for our future.” This may involve assessing the attitudes and beliefs the LPS community has about technology.

Dan Maas New CIO: Mr. Dan Maas was introduced to the committee as the new Chief Information Officer for Littleton Public Schools as of July 1, 2006. Dan has served as Director of Technology Services at Centennial BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) since 2000. Dan guided the remainder of the E-TAC meeting.

Dan addressed the group about the skillfulness of students today with technology:

“Our students today are fearless. They may have great skill with modern technologies, but they lack wisdom. Skill without wisdom is dangerous. This is something every adult can help to provide a child, even when the adult is less skilled than the child. We must help our students gain the wisdom to match their skills to be productive citizens in American society.”

Dan also described his three important values for any technology initiative:

- **COST:** Do we save money? Do we get more “bang for the buck?”
- **DEMAND:** Will people use it heavily? Is it required by law or policy?
- **INNOVATION:** Does it have the promise of transforming practice? Does a pilot project prove feasibility? Does it lead to Demand and a new Standard?

Dan posed three questions to the committee via PowerPoint. The committee broke into four (4) discussion groups to brainstorm what they perceived to be possible solutions to these questions. The four groups were as follows:

Group One (1)	Group Two (2)	Group Three (3)	Group Four (4)
Corey Brueckner	Barrett Blank	Laura Biewick	Amy Oaks
Pam Bump	Troy Greenwood	Renee Howell	Dayle Redman
Jennifer Phillips	Craig Herrera	Larry Jewett	Joyce Testerman
Crystal Reid	James Morgese	Laura Jones	Shirley Trees
Anne Smith	Bill Reddig	Donovan O’Dell	
	Jim Stephens	Matthew Shankle	
	Boni Hamilton		

The Groups responses to the Three Questions were:

1. What do you hope the Board of Education’s “Annual Charges” will be for ETAC?

Groups:	Responses:
One (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality across the district • Integrating technology to enhance education – teachers helping students to become proficient. • Effective training for teachers (technology and theory incentive driven training) • Collaborative • Technology standard per grade level; where is each skill taught and assessed?
Two (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in Technology • Student Involvement in technology • Strategy before vendor • *Developing proficient students/teachers • *Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to evaluate sources ○ Digital citizenship ○ Does technology connect with the curriculum? • *Informational Literacy • Help change
Three (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is technology’s role in education? • Where are we? (technology assessment audit in process) • Where do we compare with other districts? Countries? What works?

Four (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it look like to be a learner in the 21st century? • What does a district roadmap for instructional technology look like?
-----------------	--

2. How do you think the Schools, the District Administration, the ETAC, the ETAC Executive Committee and the Board of Education should interact to guide technology in LPS?

Groups:	Responses:
One (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass roots instead of top down • Exposure to what is happening throughout the district • Provide opportunities, not give mandates • Technology exposure training linked with PLC's (professional learning community)
Two (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory • Setting the direction with dialogue • Not about tools, but themes
Three (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive learning • Equity • Technology preparation • e-learning/district learning
Four (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the function of ETAC leads to know how to communicate • Design opportunities for district leadership to communicate the results of various site level initiatives • Design opportunities for district leadership to become more technology literate (a technology academy)

3. What norms and operating procedures should we adopt to ensure successful attainment of the above items?

Groups:	Responses:
One (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of subgroups • Feedback from each subgroup before decisions are made
Two (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to sub-divide into multi-disciplinary teams
Three (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Rules of engagement
Four (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified introductions of committee members • Opportunities for conversation among job different/job alike groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informality ○ Explicit purpose for meeting

Committee members expressed an interest in getting to know each other better. Members in a round table session introduced themselves and made brief statements regarding their personal and professional backgrounds. It is the desire of the committee to continue to get know each other.

The E-TAC Bylaws were available and passed out several sections were referred to during the meeting.

There is a signature required regarding *The Committee Member Disclosure statement*. (on Bylaws page 3 of 9) Please see Gail Schillinger if you have not signed the sheet, it basically states that:

“Serving on the committee is not to be used for the profit, gain or private interest of any individual. To maintain public confidence in the work of the committee and to prevent the use of serving on the committee for private gain, it is important for members of the committee to publicly disclose any potential conflict of interest.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m...

NEXT MEETING:

Day	Date	Time	Location
Wednesday	June 28 th	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	ESC, Board Room

*Please feel free to arrive at the ESC at 6:00 p.m. for a chance to mingle and meet other committee members prior to the meeting start at 6:30 p.m.