



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee  
Littleton Public Schools  
Meeting Minutes  
03-21-2007**

**Chair: James Morgese      Chair-Elect: Jim Stephens      CIO: Dan Maas**  
**LOCATION: East Elementary Library**

**6:00 PM – Arrival**

ETAC members networking and casual dialog

**6:30 PM – Convene**

Call to order: Mr. Jim Stephens, Committee Chair elect. Mr. Stephens led this meeting for Mr. James Morgese due to the change of the meeting day.

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. in the library of East Elementary

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**6:31 PM – Approval of Minutes**

**Review minutes of December 13th , 2006**

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 30ith, 2007. There were no motions for any changes.

Mr. Spencer Zeppelin motioned to approve the Minutes of January 30ith as presented.

Mr. Briggs Buckley seconds the motion for Minutes approval.

The committee is unanimously in favor of approving the minutes.

**6:32 PM – Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Stephens asked if there are suggestions or additions to the March meeting agenda.

Mr. Maas suggested the *student agenda* be presented directly after East Elementary shows their Celebrating Successes presentation. This change is due to several key members having to leave the ETAC meeting to attend other meetings. The committee approved this motion.

The committee was unanimously in favor of the modified agenda.

**6:40 PM– Celebrating Successes-**

**\*East Elementary\***

Mr. Greg Sumlin, Principal of East Elementary extended a welcome to the ETAC Committee and introduced the other members of his staff who were presenting this evening. The presenters: Ms. Kay Bolerjack, Computer Coach at East, Ms. Ceci Dixon, ESL teacher, and Mr. Chris Moore, third grade teacher.

Ms. Bolerjack showed a movie clip of East Elementary students which had been shown on TV. The clip featured the enthusiastic East Elementary students acting as news broadcasters reporting on a variety of events. A PowerPoint (attached) on the state of technology at East and two short movie clips showing students using clickers and the Smart Board were also presented to the committee. In general, students spend 30 minutes in a computer lab once a week.

East has a unique student population which creates distinctive challenges unlike most other schools in the district. There are students from 25 different countries speaking some 14 different languages. Students at East can come with a very wide array of readiness for school and the challenge for the staff is to meet the needs of this diverse learning community.

### **7:15 Board Activities Report – BOE Liaison Renee’ Howell.**

Ms. Renee’ Howell reported that the PLC implementation plan is moving forward. The district will likely implement the reverse dialing system to let parents know when each PLC will be occurring. Advanced notification of PLC times will also be announced in school newsletters.

Ms. Howell also reported to the committee the high regard the Board had for a presentation Mr. Dan Maas, in conjunction with several other key Littleton Staff members presented. The report was called *21<sup>st</sup> century Technologies and Their Relationship to Student Achievement*.

The Bond for school improvements which began in 2001 is coming to a close in July. All projects are now finished and within the budget with the exception of a small project still to be completed in Heritage High School. In addition, Ms. Howell mentioned that while LPS usage of fuel and utility remain the same, costs have gone up. The Board will be reviewing this situation for solutions.

As an FYI Ms. Howell also revealed that this fall two LPS Board Member seats will become available. Ms. Diana Holland, residing Board President has now served her full term will be resigning her seat. In addition, Mr. John Dunn may also resign his seat. His decision to run again has not been affirmed.

Finally, the Board is in the process of reviewing and renewing the Superintendent of Littleton Public Schools, Mr. Scott Murphy’s contract. We are happy that Mr. Murphy will continue his service in our district.

### **7:30 PM –: ETAC –Student Agenda –**

#### **Spencer Zepelin, Arapahoe High School ETAC Student Representative**

#### **Briggs Buckley, Littleton High School ETAC Student Representative**

**(Jesse Klekamp, Heritage High School ETAC Representative had an important school commitment this evening, but did give her prior input.**

It was the students’ intent to provide ETAC members with a perspective on how technology availability can impact a learning activity.

The students split the ETAC committee up into three groups. Each group had varying degrees of resources to create a project on Christopher Columbus within a 10 minute time period.

- Group 1 had access to online computers.
- Group 2 had poster board, markers and a book found in the library.
- Group 3 had poster board, markers and several text books.

The results of this exercise were:

1. Given the very short time to complete the project, the use of the computer was actually a bit of an encumbrance due to the vast amount of resources and material available. This demonstrated that time is a major factor needed when using the internet as a resource. Time is needed to sift through and evaluate the voluminous amounts of sources available. If adequate time is not available, information overload while using the Internet can be incapacitating. The process of evaluating information can increase, rather than ease, the burden of the task at hand.
2. The committee members in group 2 said they missed the ability to use the Internet which would enable them to have access to more diverse information. The book available to this group provided a singular view on the topic that was very limiting.
3. The committee members in group 3 using text books did not like the inability to use the most up to date information. However, this group was very successful in producing the product requested but it was noted that the textbook that was available to them was published in 1999.

Student ETAC representative Mr. Spencer Zepelin stated that one of the most important points he would like the committee to come away from the exercise with is:

Teachers might want to de-emphasize having students learn and memorize factual information from a text book. There is a need to focus on learning skills and resourcefulness. These skills are needed while using computer technology to enable students to access information for themselves. Further instruction in teaching students to become critical thinkers and collaborators in addition to having the ability to learn how to sift through vast amounts of information so that students can come away with factual and relevant information is a pertinent and necessary skill needed by today’s student.

Mr. Bill Reddig made a point in saying that all three of these groups may have had a valid learning experience with the right teacher to frame the information. The consensus of the ETAC was that as powerful as technologies may be or become, the art of teaching is still essential.

### **7:50 PM CIO Report – Report on Technology and how it supports Student Achievement**

Mr. Maas first thanked and credited Ms. Anne Smith and Ms. Boni Hamilton in addition to other LPS staff members (“the posse”) as being great supporters for this presentation to the Board.

The research based report led by Mr. Maas addressed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners and skills as they apply to writing, technology education labs, graphing calculators, clickers, collaborative work, and the training of teachers.

The paper introduces what is effective when using technology to enhance student achievement built on research and experience. The paper will be an ongoing document and will be used as reference to research pieces that show and demonstrate that effective use of technology in the classroom can increase student learning.

### **Announcements:**

**Wireless is coming!** The Littleton Public Schools Foundation Department sponsored a dinner at the “Wildlife Exhibition Center” on March 15th. The dinner raised \$15,000 dollars to be used for the installation of a wireless networking “hot spot” in each one of our schools. The monetary goal was met in about 12 minutes!

**ETAC Committee Membership News:** The ETAC committee has 13 individuals who were signed up for a one year term on ETAC which will culminate this spring. These members will be contacted to see if they will be applying for another term. Members are eligible to apply for another 2 year term. We will be soliciting for membership from the district and the community in May. ETAC position postings will be available on our website, and in the newspaper. Sign up forms will also be available at the schools. The ETAC Executive Committee will meet in June to discuss new membership applications and renewals. In addition the committee will also hold an election for a new chair-elect in May. In August our Chair Elect Jim Stephens will take over as the chair of the committee.

**Upcoming Agenda Items:** Mr. Maas will be presenting a “Strategic Technology Plan” to the committee at the April meeting in addition to several policies regarding electronic instructional materials for the committee to review. Mr. Maas is also working on a policy that will allow student owned technologies onto our networks and into our schools.

### **8:40 PM – Adjournment**

**Minutes respectively submitted by: Gail Schillinger-Technology Support Specialist**