



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee
Littleton Public Schools
Meeting Minutes
09-27-2006**

Chair: James Morgese Chair-Elect: Jim Stephens CIO: Dan Maas
LOCATION: Goddard Middle School
Science Lab Room #224

6:00 PM – Arrival

Networking and casual dialogs

6:30 PM – Convene

Call to order: James Morgese, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Science Lab at Goddard Middle School Room #224.

Pledge of Allegiance

6:32 PM – Approval of Minutes

Review minutes of August 30, 2006

Mr. Morgese asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 30, 2006

There were no corrections to the minutes of August 30, 2006 E-TAC minutes.

In light of the tragedy taking place this day at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Dan Maas told the committee that LPS has a technologically comprehensive, award winning security system in place 365 days a year, 24-7. The security system provides the best possible protection for Littleton students. Mr. Maas then gave a summary of the situation in Bailey for those committee members who were teaching and unable to get the news headlines.

6:35 PM – Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Morgese asked if there are suggestions or additions to the September 27th meeting agenda. There were no comments or suggestions to the September 27th agenda.

Action:

Laura Biewick motioned to approve the agenda

Matt Shankle seconds the motion; the committee was unanimously in favor.

6:36 PM– Celebrating Successes-*Goddard Middle School*

Dr. Amy Oaks and Mr. Curt Christensen presenting.

The **PowerPoint** presentation given by Amy Oaks and Curt Christensen is attached. Ms. Oaks offered some important facts about Goddard to help the committee better understand who makes up the Goddard student body and staff. The presentation also highlighted hopes and dreams for Goddard and some of the challenges and realities it faces.

Goddard has 843 students:

- 25% minority, 30-35% qualified for free/reduced lunch.

Goddard Middle School gets it's students from

- Field, East, Centennial, Moody, Whitman and Wilder. 16% of the students are from out of district.

Goddard uses 68 Alpha Smarts

- Goddard uses Graphing Calculators (one set for each 7th and 8th grade math classroom)
- Teachers share 29 computer projectors/Smartboards (EVERY teacher would like one mounted in their classroom)
- Goddard hopes two full-sized computer labs provide enough access for classroom use, However:
 - i. MAPS testing blocks 8 weeks of time
 - ii. This lab is also used for four periods per day for SuccessMaker, the thriving math and reading intervention program.
- Every staff member has a computer on his/her desk. (247 computers)
 - i. Goddard has difficulty with funds needed for the cost of ownership of technology.
 - ii. Goddard enjoys an extremely generous and supportive community.

7:27 PM – Discussion Items and Reports

Board Activities Report – BOE Liaison Renee' Howell

Ms. Howell announced 2 community forums regarding increasing collaborative time for teams of teachers to determine the best ways to help every student learn and what to do when they aren't learning. **Note: The forums have been postponed until after the Board of Education's (BOE) Workshop on Thursday, October 12, 2006, 5:00 – 6:30** in the Board Room as the Education Services Center (ESC). Interested citizens are encouraged to attend the Workshop. Many options continue to be explored regarding the use of time, which may affect the district calendar. The BOE and central office staff remain committed to finding the best solutions to support the district's continuous improvement work.

The Board has made final revisions to the 2006-2011 strategic plan. LPS Administration will be developing a work plan in addition to the strategic plan which will encompass new district academic goals whose aim will be to cut the student performance gap in half by 2009. The district will use multiple measures, not just CSAP results to assess progress. Renee announced that Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results show that as a district, LPS missed only one target, achieving 133 out of 134 targets.

Enrollment projections indicate the district fell short of the anticipated numbers of student enrolled. An updated demographic study showed that the Arapahoe County birth rate is lower than anticipated. The district has done a great job of attracting out of district students; we need to continue this. Kirk Madsen will be engaged in a task force that will focus on ways the district can adjust to this situation to maximize school funding which is a per head count allocation.

Amendment 38 and 39: Renee encouraged members to become informed about these initiatives and candidates that will appear on the November election ballot. The Bluebook is available for reference.

7:40 PM –: CIO Report – E-TAC CHARGE FINALIZED!

Action Item from, James Morgese, Jim Stephens Dan Maas as of September 27th:
Dan Maas asked the ETAC Committee if the ETAC charge was acceptable to the committee as written below to be presented to the Board.

Detail:

As a diverse community voice, the charge of the ETAC will be to advise the Littleton Public Schools regarding implementation of technology to support a world-class learning community that promotes student achievement, empowers educators, and develops students into productive citizens.

- ETAC will be a forum for ideas and innovation
- ETAC will provide an avenue for gathering community support
- ETAC will review equitable technology policy

For the 2006-2007 school year, ETAC’s objectives are to

1. Establish the committee
2. Contribute to an assessment of the state of technology for the district.
3. Assist the CIO in the identification of major technology initiatives for the future.

Action:

Laura Biewick moved to approve the ETAC charge as written.

Barrett Blank seconds the motion.

The committee unanimously voted to accept the charge as written. It will be presented to the Board in October.

7:40 PM Break-Out Discussions

**Mr. Dan Maas posed this question to the committee for small group discussion:
“Is a portable computer an essential tool for all students?”
(for long term use)**

Group Discussion Feedback:

Corey Bruckner, Littleton High School Math teacher said “Yes, portable handheld devices are an essential learning device for the future. The graphing calculator he uses in his class as a tool has many functions and is especially powerful in teaching math and sciences.”

Shirley Trees, Director of Elementary Education said that there is research that states that the technology that computers provide help increase student achievement/ improvement. In addition there is research that word processing enriches and reduces the writing gender gap.” In general it seems that transparent and robust technology is needed to reach leaning goals.

Anne Smith, Arapahoe High School teacher stated that the key to successful instruction and dramatic student achievement is most effectively done through teacher and student

collaboration. For purposeful learning to occur, teachers need to know how to use and apply the technology handheld devices may provide. Ms. Smith gave an example of how “blogger” was used to discuss an English lesson which captivated and enticed students to keep dialogue alive for many hours. This experience also gave students a chance to see teachers as lifelong learners. “The teacher is the most important tool” she stated, time is needed for **staff development** and constant training.”

Mr. Dan Maas stated that, “Teaching is more than content delivery. Learning is a relationship.” Example: if the school closes down there is no community. The school is one of the main focal points of the community. We are focusing on changes that can be made in how teachers work.”

On-line technology can allow a student to concentrate in core subject areas adjusting to the individualized pace of the student. The classroom can be used for meaningful dialog and discussion, rather than the classroom being used merely for the dispensing of information.

The committee thought that the **age** of the student should be taken into consideration. Expensive hand held tool might be easily dropped by younger students. Other questions that arose were:

- Which tool would be the most durable?
- Which is the appropriate tool?
- Which tool would be the most effective?

Marc Nestorick, Hopkins Elementary Principal said that - “No one tool is sufficient.” Not only do we need multiple tools, we need to use the appropriate tool to integrate the technology into the curriculum. We need to examine what we are trying to learn and apply the appropriate tool to do the job.”

8:32 PM Announcements - Mr. Morgese closed the group discussion and asked if there were any other announcements. There were no other announcements offered at this time.

8:35 PM – Adjournment

Minutes respectively submitted by: Gail Schillinger-Technology Support Specialist