



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee
Littleton Public Schools
Meeting Minutes
4-2-2008**

Chair: Jim Stephens Chair-Elect: Briggs Buckley CIO: Dan Maas

LOCATION: Lenski Elementary

6:00 PM – Arrival

ETAC members networking and casual dialog

6:30 PM – Convene

Call to order: Mr. Briggs Buckley Chair-Elect of the ETAC 2008-2009 called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 23 of Lenski Elementary. Mr. Buckley convened the meeting on Mr. Stephens' behalf as preparation for assuming the chair of the committee next year.

Pledge of Allegiance

6:32 PM – Approval of Minutes

Review Minutes of February 27, 2008

Mr. Buckley asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 27, 2008. There were no motions for any changes.

Mr. Troy Greenwood motioned to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2008 as presented.

Mr. Bill Reddig seconded the motion to approve.

The committee was unanimously in favor of approving the minutes.

6:35 PM – Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Buckley asked if there were any suggestions or additions to the April meeting agenda. The committee was unanimously in favor of approving the agenda as presented.

6:40 PM - Celebrate Our Successes-Lenski Elementary

Ms. Trecie Warner, Lenski Elementary Computer Coach greeted the committee and introduced the Lenski Elementary presenting committee which consisted of a teacher from each grade level and 5th grade students who exemplified how technology was being used in their class. (Second graders were not present due a 2nd grade event.)

1st grade: For their final presentation, the first graders put together a **PowerPoint** on a mammal of their choice and illustrated where in the world that animal is found.

3rd graders: created a **podcast** where students imagined that they were news reporters for the "Lenski Science Network." The students gave reports on Ocean Habitats. On this grade level students begin to move toward independent critical thinking. (Example: "What do you think you need to know about this topic?") and **use Internet sources** for supportive documentation in first drafts. Student work is frequently done on a computer as available. With the use of a **document camera** students are able to use pictures of subject matter in their written final project.

4th graders: At this level there is a greater push to get away from traditional research projects where teachers drive all the questioning and information. The fourth graders are studying volcanoes and also collecting and validating **Internet resources** being used for their final

project.

5th graders: A wonderful bunch of 5th grade Lenski students described to the committee the work they were doing making Public Service Announcements. First, a combination of research books and websites are obtained by students for a project. **Websites are validated**, then used to find important and interesting facts regarding the topic. Students employ note taking skills via computer in 2 column format in **MS Word**. They use **copy and paste** functions to take notes from internet websites and must also document websites used as resources. All **editing and revision** work is done on a computer. The last week of school there will be a film festival at Lenski where all the students Public Service Announcements will be shown in addition to posting the project to the 5th grade Lenski **Wiki space** to be shared with friends and family.

In one Lenski classroom, (due to generous donations) there are 28 laptop computers which is one per child. This is most desirable because it allows for maximum flexibility due to tight scheduling and high demand of laptop carts. The children use the laptops for a variety of functions all day.

Kids learn how to troubleshoot and problem solve. They share their knowledge with teachers and student peers as they collaborate to solve computer challenges.

Lenski also has a mentoring program that involves third graders teaching kindergarteners how to insert pictures and borders and write paragraphs on the computer.

The Lenski teachers believe that technology embedded curriculum work is a valued culture within the school; it's deemed to be important and is supported by the leadership team at Lenski.

7:05 PM – Discussion Items and Reports- BOE Liaison Renee Howell-

Janice Min, Heritage High School graduate and editor in chief of “US” magazine, spoke at the Littleton Foundation dinner. The Foundation raised 13 thousand dollars to be used to buy ASUS eee laptops for school use.

The Center for On-line Learning (COLS program) held at ACC started out with five students only two years ago, it now has eighty kids enrolled. Making the program very successful. Many of the students are there for remediation or an alternative education path. This program is a good gateway to the community college experience.

LPS enrollment projections continue to drop. However, in the last 2 years Kindergarten enrollment has had a slight increase. We are hoping this trend holds for a third year. To make up for the 3 million dollar shortfall 1.5 million dollars was cut from undesignated reserves. All ESC departments cut budgets by 5%. Weighted staffing at the schools was reduced. All open positions at the ESC are frozen and 10 administrative positions were cut from the ESC.

The Facilities Task Force has met 6 times. Their notes and minutes are available on the LPS website. There will be a presentation for the public in May.

Superintendent Scott Murphy: The CAP4Kids program involves the expansion of early childhood, and is moving toward full day Kindergarten for almost half of the district. Many parents are in support of this however there are still parents who want choices and options to full day Kindergarten.

A survey of the community has just been completed. The reason for the survey is to assess what the tax tolerance is of the community and in general about how the community feels about what

LPS is doing. Strategically this will help LPS assess the mood prior to an election. Scott said that as we approach the public, the committee should link technology with another message. "Technology in and of itself does not resonate." However when put into the realm of preparing kids for the future, and their success and ability to compete in the job market, the interest rises significantly." The ETAC committee will be able to see the results of the survey after it is reviewed by the Board.

7:20 PM -- Moving Forward

Group 1: The Special Technology Election

Mr. Brian Hensman reported that his sub-group would like request to have a little more time to bring their report to the table.

Reports from sub-group activities

- Special Technology Election recommendation to the Board
 - Feedback on survey
 - Timing issues
 - Order of funding priority

Mr. Steven Newell showed a PowerPoint on his sub-groups ideas of

- Public-Private Partnerships of funding the vision
 - Fee-based programs
 - Order of funding priority

Please see the PowerPoint attached.

8:00 PM – CIO REPORT– Mr. Dan Maas –

Mr. Dan Maas presented a PowerPoint that was used at the Littleton Foundation dinner fund-raising event. The event raised \$13,500. An additional \$31,000 will be added to this sum from one time e-rate funding to purchase of Eee PC <http://eeepc.asus.com/global/> computers to be used at the schools.

In addition Mr. Maas also presented a concept to make laptops affordable for families to purchase. Through a 3rd party (not the LPS district), private donors can purchase space on the casing of Eee PC laptops in a manner not unlike Nascar racing vehicles. This opt-in approach could make it possible for families to rent-to-own laptops for \$50/year. A certain list of criteria would need to be developed (i.e. no beer ads, no Viagra, etc.) to allow such devices at school. But so long as the donors meet those requirements... perhaps the marketing budgets of corporate America could be used to help kids bring laptops to school? Discussions are underway on developing such a project and it was important to get ETAC reaction to the concept at this time. All members are requested to provide anonymous feedback with a survey that was sent out after the meeting.

<http://www.littletonpublicschools.net/Surveys/TakeSurvey.asp?SurveyID=51L6o412ln8KG>

8:30 PM --: Road Map – Jim Stephens:

We are almost at the end of our year! Mr. Stephens requested all committee members to stick with us for the next couple of meeting as we finish up. He reminded the group that we need to forward recommendations from our perspective on what we ought to be doing about technology for this district.

Remaining meetings for ETAC:

- April 30th Field Elementary
- May 21st ESC- Final Meeting

Announcements: Our next Meeting is at Field Elementary on Wednesday April 30th

8:30 PM – Adjournment

Minutes respectively submitted by: Gail Schillinger-Technology Support Specialist