



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee  
Littleton Public Schools  
Meeting Minutes  
2-27-2008**

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

**LOCATION: Arapahoe High School**

**6:00 PM – Arrival**

ETAC members networking and casual dialog

**6:30 PM – Convene**

Call to order: Mr. Jim Stephens Chair of the ETAC 2007-2008 called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Library of Arapahoe High School.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**6:32 PM – Approval of Minutes**

**Review Minutes of January 23, 2008**

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 23, 2008. There were no motions for any changes.

Mr. Spencer Zepelin motioned to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2008 as presented.

Mr. Ben Horblit seconds the motion to approve.

The committee is unanimously in favor of approving the minutes.

**6:35 PM – Approval of the Agenda**

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

**6:37 PM Celebrate Our Successes**

**\*Arapahoe High School\***

Presenters: Director of Technology at Arapahoe High School, Mr. Karl Fisch, and AHS students: Ms. Hannah Leffingwell, Ms. Paige Newell, Ms. Maria Krump, Mr. Spencer Zepelin, and Mr. Ben Horblit.

Mr. Karl Fisch introduced the five Arapahoe students who were asked to provide a 10-15 minute improvisation when asked the question, **“How has your learning changed?”**

These are just some of the spontaneous comments the students made:

- We are learning “how” to learn. The teachers provide guidelines as to what they expect; we are not spoon fed information. As students, we now develop our own opinions and collect documentation to support our opinions from internet sources. We learn how to decipher reliable sources of internet information. In this way of learning the teacher has more of a facilitator role which creates feelings of independence, creativity and responsibility in us as students.
- Since students have more ownership of their learning, it becomes more personal. Students can see and understand the meaning in what they are doing.

- Access to the internet has created a much more dynamic learning environment. When references are limited to what is on the shelf of the library, students cannot pull from as many sources. The internet provides much more information at your fingertips.
- Students have the ability to learn how to use the technology itself. For instance, how to use the “help” function, spell check, thesaurus. Also helps them to have the confidence to adapt to new and ever-changing software/hardware updates.
- The use of technology allows a student to expand their organizational capabilities. Students can fit so much more information onto a thumb drives versus carrying cumbersome and heavy books around.
- Students can add audio/visual enhancements to reports. Technology tools such as these can give papers an impact beyond their normal scope. In addition, a student can share their work via the internet with people around the world acquiring interesting perspectives from many types of cultures. This powerful capability gives a student more vested interests in their work. Students spoke of discussing their essays with students from Japan and New Zealand.
- The implementation of technology takes away the cement walls and confines of the school building. Learning becomes unlimited. The opportunities and exposure that technology creates fosters the ability for students to hone in on their interests, career and professional interests and in general what makes them happy earlier in life.
- It’s great to have the ability for quick reference and look-up capabilities with the Podnet, I-phone and I-touch.
- Are laptops a distraction? The students thought that the kids who were distracted by laptops are the same students who would be doodling with pencil and paper or napping instead of learning. Students expressed gratification at having the responsibility of ownership of technology. The ownership they said builds a mutual trust between student and teacher which the students enjoy.

#### Questions from the committee to the students

##### **What is your perception of teachers in general and how they are using technology?**

There seems to be a great disparity amongst teachers and the use technology. Some seem very comfortable while others are still afraid. The students were hesitant to say that these instances seem to align themselves with age, but it seems that younger teachers are more naturally inclined to use technology while some of the more mature teachers are more hesitant.

##### **What is the ideal role of the teacher with technology?**

In a word, Guidance! There is still a curriculum that needs to be followed and the teacher understands those requirements. If a student “gets stuck”, needs further clarification or help in any way the teacher can provide guidance and structure both individually and as a class.

Use the beginners mind, think like a child. . . Mr. Spencer Zepelin had the committee perform a

drawing exercise exemplifying that educators need to continue to foster wonderment and creativity in conjunction with experience to grow student minds without destroying individuality and the child-like imagination.

Mr. Karl Fisch- Summary: Arapahoe High School hosted a seminar involving some 150 participants. The seminar was called Learning 2.0. Teachers, School Board Members, Students, Administrators and Parents all participated. Arapahoe High School has been awarded grants which have allowed them to buy technology equipment enabling them to have great learning opportunities they have not previously had. An example of this is the Videoconferencing sessions with Daniel Pink.

Mr. Fisch stated that staff development is at the heart of successful learning. He attributes a large part of Arapahoe High Schools success on ongoing, sustained staff development. Arapahoe High is in its' 3<sup>rd</sup> year of staff development meetings which occur every 2-3 weeks. This session involves teachers teaching teachers, with a "big picture focus". Teachers look at today's students learning in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century environment and try to figure out what is best for them. "We are living in an age of information abundance and flat world conditions. We need to make student centered decisions." he said.

Video was recorded for this session and will be available for the ETAC podcast report to the Board of Education.

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

Ms. Howell introduced Mr. Bob Colwell, District Board President who attended the ETAC Meeting.

Ms. Howell also announced that March 14<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Littleton Foundation "Spirit of Littleton" dinner. Janice Min, Heritage High School graduate and now Chief Editor of US Magazine will be the guest presenter. Parties interested in donating to help technology related efforts should attend.

Finally Ms. Howell explained that funds from the last mil levy election are running out. This situation in combination with a declining enrollment has caused the district a 3 million dollar deficit. This is no surprise to the Board; they have anticipated this problem for some time. It has been decided that 1.5 million will come from reserves to make up the difference and 1.5 million will come from cuts, primarily at the ESC.

#### **7:20 PM – CIO REPORT– Mr. Dan Maas –**

- **Report on visioning progress**
- **K-12 Principals and**
- **Community Survey**
- **ETAC Survey**

Dan Maas: Spoke briefly about the Visioning Document that will be used at the Spirit of Littleton Foundation Dinner. The document does not talk about technology, but about how reading and writing are different for today's learners. The Littleton Foundation was instrumental in acquiring the funds last year that enabled the district to install access points for wireless services. This year the EEE computer will be the crux of the bidding.

There will be a meeting with the Littleton K-12 Administrative staff in two weeks. Time spent at

this meeting will be used to discuss the technology vision. Where do we think 1:1 computing will make the most sense and really unleash the learning for our students? Our dialog with Mr. Scott Myers, Chief Financial Officer revealed that it would cost 6.5 million dollars to get the 1:1 initiative started even with the EEE. A nine million dollar technology mil levy would enable us to fund our entire vision, which would include the aging phone system in the district, document cameras and projectors in every classroom, and 1:1 computing. This election needs to be a Board initiative decision. The Board is presently faced with other district challenges at this time. Therefore there is uncertainty as to what the timing of an election would be.

Superintendent Scott Murphy, Community Manager Diane Leiker and CIO Dan Maas are presently engaged in working on a community survey. Four or five of the questions will be related to technology. Questions are designed to assess the community support for a potential technology election. The survey should be available for the committee's review by the next meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

KUDOS to Euclid Middle School! Euclid has constructed a math computer lab for remediation and acceleration using 8 computers and the technology that **n-Computing** provides to expand the use to many computers. This fully functional lab was created in an unused room that has no air conditioning, 10 electrical outlets and 2 data drops. The use of n-Computing not only reduces electrical demand, it expands our technological reach for nominal costs as this case clearly models! [editor's note: Euclid is now undergoing some upgrades for electrical power for this classroom, but the upgrades are a fraction of what a normal lab would require]

ETAC Survey – Mr. Stephens thanked the committee for taking the time to fill out the survey and for the valuable feedback and comments on some of them. The results of this survey have been e-mailed to all committee members. In moving forward the committee stated, “We get the fundamental vision, what is it that we are going to do about it?”

### **7:30 PM –: Moving Forward**

In order to drive our vision forward and be prepared for the time that a Technology election may occur. The ETAC committee will subdivide into 2 groups. These groups will discuss fundamental moves and advance approaches in order for the committee to be ready for the time when a technology election can occur and also be prepared to make recommendations to the Board.

**Group 1:** Will discuss *How To Prepare For A Special Technology Election*

- What do we have to do to be ready for a technology election?
- What are the important steps?
- Who needs to do them?
- How do we begin to take the necessary steps?
- What type of questions should be asked on a community survey

Now say the voters turn down the special technology election...We need Plan B!

**Group 2:** Will discuss: *Public/Private Partnerships:*

- What can we do without a large sum of money?
- Tactically, how can we get smaller sums of money or reallocate existing funds and apply them to start unleashing the learners?
- What about timing?
- What should be the order of funding priorities if we can't get the whole vision funded,

what should come first?

These groups **are not set in stone**; you may move around if you choose but please consult Jim Stephens if you would like to move; just so we keep the sides even.

<i>Group 1</i>	<i>Group 2</i>
Barrett Blank	Anne Smith
Boni Hamilton	Ben Horblit
Cheryl Fleming	Bill Reddig
Craig Herrera	Brian Hensman
Dayle Redman	Chris Moore
Donovan O'Dell	Diane Frank
Jerry Anderson	Jean Gragg
Larry Jewett	Jesse Klekamp
Laura Jones	Matthew Shankle
Maureen Medved	Mike McShea
Neil Heimbigner	Steve Wolf
Renee Howell	Ron Lee
Steven Newell	Terry Petrie
Spencer Zepelin	Troy Greenwood

**Announcements:** Next Meeting is at Lenski Elementary on **Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** due to **Spring break!**

**8:30 PM – Adjournment**

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