



**Educational Technology Advisory Committee  
 Littleton Public Schools  
 Meeting Minutes  
 01-20-2010**

**Chair: Matthew Shankle Chair-Elect: David Chao CIO: Dan Maas**

**LOCATION: Twain Elementary**

<b>6:00 PM – Arrival</b>	
ETAC members networking and casual dialog	
<b>6:30 PM – Convene</b>	
Call to order: Mr. Matt Shankle, Chair of the ETAC 2009-2010 called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Library of Twain Elementary School.	
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
<b>6:32 PM – Approval of Minutes</b>	
<b>Review Minutes of December 2, 2009</b>	
Mr. Matt Shankle asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of December 02, 2009. Mr. Briggs Buckley motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ben Horblit seconds the motion. The committee was then unanimously in favor of approving the minutes after the motion.	
<b>6:35 PM – Approval of the Agenda</b>	
Mr. Shankle asked if there were any suggestions or additions to the January 20 meeting agenda. The committee was in unanimously in favor of by passing sub-committee reporting and replacing it with an extended discussion of budget issues in LPS. With this change, the committee then went on to approving the agenda as presented.	
<b>6:37 PM – Celebrating Successes Twain Elementary School</b>	
Presenters: Ms. Elizabeth Aucone, Computer Instructional Coach and Mr. Kevin Watanabe 4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher presented a video displaying the varieties of technology uses at Twain. Both these presenters have long histories with the Littleton district. Ms. Aucone has been teaching for 18 years and has children who came through the Littleton school system and Mr. Watanabe came through the LPS school system himself, a graduate of Heritage High. ( The Twain presentation is attached with notes for further information)	
<b>Twain Uses of Technology include:</b>	
Tech Lab	LCD in every classroom
Flip Digital Cameras	Document Cameras
Clicker set	Library Mini Lab
N-Computing	Webcams
Blue Snowball Microphones	1-1 computers for every teacher
Portable Smartboard	Portable Lab
Podcasts/Wiki's	Scope and Sequence checklist for student skills
Among the many projects going on at Twain is the development of a website which allowed students to experience u-streaming (www.ustream.tv) as they watched the development of fertilized eggs into chicks. This project created lots of excitement for students and also allowed students to apply the use of voice threads. People from all over the world watched the hatching. The site earned	

an honorable place in the top 10 best on U-Stream.

Twain second graders use a Wiki-Space to communicate with pen pal students in Pennsylvania.

With funding collected from selling year books Twain was able to purchase a Flip video camera for every class grade level. The Flip videos are used in a multitude of ways at Twain. Students use the Flip camera each morning while delivering morning announcements. The taped announcements are then posted to a blog. Parents enjoy logging in to see the lunch menu being announced by students and to learn what activities are coming up.

The Flip video camera is also used to help special needs students, assist the principal with teacher professional development activities, and recording of PLC work sessions are taped to help the community be in touch with what is happening during PLC time.

Finally, fourth graders participate in a Podcast posted on a Wiki site that Mr. Watanabe created in which students explain aspects of three things they believe to be true and why. Mr. Watanabe stated “improved student writing samples are in direct correlation to students writing to an audience.”

### **7:25 PM - Discussion Items and Reports- BOE Liaison Renee Howell**

The Colorado English Language Assessment (**CELA**) test is a test that is given to students whose native language is something other than English. English language learners are a growing population in the district. It appears that many of these children are coming in to the district as adoptive children.

**Assesstrack:** is a tool used by teachers to access information on the many standardized tests students take. Assesstrack allows teachers to track proficiency in student learning or lack of proficiency quickly and easily.

**Budget:** The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the fiscal dilemma facing Littleton Public schools and school districts across the country.

Ms. Howell reports that the LPS Board of Education continues its discussion regarding the recommended budget cuts for 2010-2011. The recommendations had called for \$7.5 million in cuts for next year; however the latest information from the state is that those cuts could actually be \$9.5 million due to the national and state economic crisis.

During the last Board Workshop, the Board discussed in great detail the recommendations regarding: Budget recommendations include a combination of:

- Salary freeze for all employees
- Central office staffing cuts
- Reductions of contracts for central office employees
- Staffing cuts in the schools
- Furlough days for all employees
- Cuts to staff development for all employees
- Elimination of district support for dental insurance
- No increase in district cost for health benefits
- Reduction or elimination of district financial support for some programs

While the district is hopeful that the Legislature will come to a final decision soon, typically the finalization of budget decisions aren't made until May. Until then, moving forward with the recommended reductions and staffing process for next year is difficult and uncertain but will continue. The Board will continue its conversations regarding the budget at its regularly scheduled

meetings. Further information regarding the budget can be found at [www.littletonpublicschools.net](http://www.littletonpublicschools.net) under “Budget Matters”

**7:30 P.M.- CIO Report: Dan Maas:**

LPS had 7 nominations out of a total of 11 Colorado nominees for an international award given to edubloggers. This award honors teachers who have a stellar ability to use web 2.0 tools in classrooms. LPS had 2 winners, Mr. Karl Fisch and Kathryn Heissenbittel out of the 7 nominees.

The ISTE (International Society of Technology in Education) conference will be coming to Colorado in June. LPS will have 6 presenters representing the district at this conference.

Dr. Mark Warschauer author and Professor at the University of California at Irvine visited Littleton last week. Dr. Warschauer is one of the foremost researchers and publishers on using laptops in classrooms. Dr. Warschauer is presently doing research on the impact of the netbook and how they can be utilized in the classroom and has visited East and Hopkins.

Edtech magazine has contacted Mr. Maas for an interview as basis for a magazine article that will publish in April. The article will contain information regarding the district’s “Inspired Writing Project”. Littleton is one of the few districts in the country that has a significant deployment of unsponsored netbooks which has successfully raised student achievement.

The final results of the grant initiative called “Powering Up Writing” will be presented to the Board on January 28 by Mr. Maas. Results show a definitive correlation between the use of netbooks and raising student achievement on test scores. This pilot project took place in 5 district schools.

**7:35 PM – Small Group Work: Carried over until next meeting**

**8:00 PM – LPS Conference Concept- Spirit Dinner Update:**

Mr. Maas introduced Ms. Beth Best, Director of LPS Foundation. The committee thanks Ms. Best who pledged support for the LPS Conference Day. One of the key purposes of this event is to spotlight teachers who are demonstrating some exciting 21<sup>st</sup> Century practices and share their experiences with other teachers in the district.

Ms. Best will be attending more ETAC meetings as one of the primary focuses of the Foundation will be to help raise funding for technology. She also announced that the “Spirit Dinner” will be coming up in April. Last year this dinner featured a “Technology Street” where students came and showcased their technology knowledge and projects. Due to the popularity of this event, students will be invited to participate in the Spirit Dinner again.

**Ideas for Technology Street:**

- Mementos for kids to autograph DVD’s, posters, t-shirts
- Photo shoot
- Kids speaking to crowd about what they are doing
- Video of Elementary students

**Conference LPS concept document (Please note that this outline is still in “draft form.”)**

**Goals:**

1. Professional Development
2. Marketing

3. Visitor access

4. Fund-raising

**Vision:**

Convene a one-day conference in LPS using our own educators as expert presenters to provide internal professional development, showcase our technology advances to the community, welcome external interest with minimal disruptions and generate funds for the district.

**Method:**

June 3rd

- ~60 min presentations from “spotlight teachers”
  - 5 elementary
  - 5 secondary
- Design narrative of methodology, some results and video exemplar
- Compensation from Title IID allocation
- Prepares presenters for other conference presentations (6 at ISTE)
- Teachers learning from other teachers
- Ames as host site

**Participants:**

- LPS staff attend for free
- LPS community attend for nominal fee to cover food expense
- Visitors from outside LPS community pay a \$75 registration fee

**Sponsors:**

- LPS Foundation may organize corporate sponsorships

Additional comments from the committee:

- Have exit interviews with participants
- Award Adams State Credit for professional development
- Pre-Survey: What are you expecting to get out of it?
- Is June 3rd the best date?

**Announcements:**

**Next ETAC Meeting will be at  
Pathways (Whitman Facility)  
on February 17, 2010  
6557 S. Acoma St.  
Littleton 80120**

**8:30 PM –Adjournment**

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