

MINUTES

West School Site Council
February 18, 2015

Call to Order:

Site Council Members:

Staff: Jamie Evare, Jamie Adams, Sherry Gavin, Kristi Shreve;
Megan Medvitz (absent) & Chris Flores (absent); guest Tim
Raffo.

Parents: Christy Maclean-Chu, Theo Kotseroglou, Teresa Pai,
Suma Raju, Leslie Huie, Sarah Adams. Guest parents: Roger
Avedon, Deb Avedon, John Lavrich, Don Geddis, , Sandy Lai,
Christine Murad & one other male parent (tba).

***** = unanswered questions

Topic of Discussion:

A. A half hour presentation by Tim Raffo about Tim Raffo's role as the TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) for Technology at the Hillsborough Elementary Schools. TOSA Position created start of 2014-2015 school year by Anthony Ranii (Hillsborough School District Superintendent) & Maureen Sullivan (Director of Technology) to implement tech support into curriculum with Common Core expectations.

Tim was formerly a 3rd & 5th grade teacher at North School, and in 2012 received Admin credential.

***WHAT ARE THE CC expectations?

All grade levels in Hillsborough (TK-5)

How to elevate and integrate TECH in to classroom?

85% of his time is supporting teachers, 15% students.

He would like to spend more time with the students.

Tim moves around based on need at each school, as there are a wide variety of tech and programs available.

Didn't want him in Lab all the time, rather in classrooms to support teachers .

Tim's Impressions for past six months:

Pros: collaboration with everyone, creativity, ability to research & play; excitement!

Difficulties:

Needing to be all over; timing; class to 'guinea pig', not as much time with students.

*****Concern about 'guinea pig' issues at West— several parents expecting our kids to be farther along ie considering the Tech folks residing in Hillsborough and proximity to Silicon Valley.

Communication:

Tim participates in collaborative meetings, e-mail requests, TOSA trainings each week at each school, Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30, example: How to add Audio to PP presentation;

Staff development;

At West:

K-1

Learning basic computer skills, Razz Kids (on-line reading program); Kid Pix 3D (creation slide shows, etc.); I pad apps

-2nd Grade

Kristi Shreve:

Flat Stanley/Stacy Project

Keep home for a week; mapped homes in Hillsbo; Google map, Google Earth, measuring distances, etc; scavenger Hunt with pinpoints around the world—great geography lesson.
Application to real-life use.

3rd Grade

Ohlone Indian project. Use of Google slideshow.
Students designed their own slides in Google Docs.

4th Grade

In process: creating a Podcast
Applying audio recording & poetry

5th Grade

Google Tools (Documents, Sheets)
Creating Webquests (Students using various websites to find information, while navigating through to create their own.....)
Flipped Classroom (?)

Other Tech Activities

Google Tools
Signup Genius (conferences)
Pearson (Social Studies) Websites
Kid Pix Tutorials
Navigation Through County Portal (KidPix,
Photo Story (using photos and audio to tell stories....
CODING
An Hour of Code at different levels..

Sandy Lai:

*****How are teachers supported if learning curve is at different pace?

Jamie:

Teachers have been given surveys and teachers recommended to be developing tech experience....

TOSA is a two-year program to get teachers to that similar comfort level. (??comfort level)

John Lavrich:

Computer Lab volunteer Dad who has had first-hand experience hands-on with kids. He is very concerned that the inability of many kids to be able to log on to their computers properly; believes the students are missing basic how-to instruction...that there is a huge chasm between what is taught and what is expected. Don't think the hour-long computer lab time is that successful.

What is expected for Hillsborough?

Internal Technology Basics, and it's happening in Wichita, Kansas, and many other elementary schools around the U.S.

What's driving the model, the Standard?

Jamie: We pulled out Specialist who was teaching kids...and now we are trying this model.

John:

Are we hitting the mark?

Are we doing continued education? How is the faculty being trained? How do we arm the kids to apply these tools successfully?

Example:

Mapquest is used with measuring tools..but kids not able to log in, not a real demonstration, the basics, and then kids get 'lost' and time is wasted.

Kristi: started on the carpet in computer lab, show how to get in to folder, show how to open up, demonstrated tool, then over several years.....

Parent volunteers could use demonstration also.

Christine Murad: mentioned that in Burlingame, there is dedicated instruction at Lab and then TOSA to give specialized instruction. Surprised that Hillsborough doesn't have a dedicated computer teacher.

Analogy offered: There is a change to use the computer as a tool, similar to use a marker in an art class. Desire for each teacher to be comfortable with tool, and apply with the Common Core.

John Lavrich states that computer tools become obsolete. We can do much, much better, considering where we are (proximity to Silicon Valley, etc).

Roger Avedon:

Debated problem with TOSA role and teacher skill sets and some don't.

HCSD has a nice team approach....TOSA and team, support, they can balance each other.

Build a bridge, have educators of teachers to educate the students.

Suma Raju: HOW? What are the Resources to make that happen....unanswered.....

Deb Avedon: Does Tim have collaboration with ILAB teachers re: Robotics, etc.? I LAB as resource . RE: bringing more programs in to classroom about Scratch, etc.

Maybe at ILab: there's Tech Challenge, Pico Cricket, etc.

No response....

Teresa Pai:

RE: 6th grade....

District has not set time for kids to reach goal.

Now they have Chrome Books, must now learn Executive Functioning and use Calendars. Teachers are all over the board with what is being used. All teachers need to be able to use Google Calendar. Working to develop teacher skills...they (Board?) not setting specific goals.

Need to consult Power School (sp?) to understand 6th grade son's homework schedule; Google calendar; planner; then what does the teacher say? Maybe this is a fault within our school. NEED TO ESTABLISH A BASELINE STANDARD. Need to not be GUINEA PIGS.

In 6th grade, the students are learning about how to navigate through their homework schedule

****wish could do more planning (in 5th grade)...

Jamie Adams: when you have innovation, you suffer some demands and glitches.

John :

****What Standards are we holding educators to for technology? Is there a Policy about it? What is timeline? We need to establish a stronger vision for the curriculum, Step by step published curriculums for application.

Jamie:

Standards:

Simple in early grades like keyboarding, etc.

Standard K-2 (cut and paste from computer)

Unidentified Parent:

Tech changing so fast. Constant struggle.

Coming from abroad (Mexico), where they are learning tech tools too.

Jamie Adams: This is a District Level conversation.

Deb Avedon:

*****Is there a people Engine for pushing new technology in school today? I-lab? Scheduling? Ex. Some use Khan Academy , some use John Hopkins, ...where's the Engine?

*****What/how?

Sarah Adams:

***Is there a Tech Advisory Group at a District Level? Not for simply talking and talking, but moving on to make change, an action plan...

Jamie Adams:

With Common Core, equity between schools, by grade level. Ex. Flat Stanley development with Google Maps shared with others...

Roger Avedon:

HCS D Forward discussion was to have TOSA to assist.

Teresa

****What about the Content of Chrome Books.....does that come from Anthony?

Sarah:

We need to have an e-mail forum or blog to discuss topics

Teresa Pai:

****Isn't the Site Council the venue for policy-changing?
District Tech Plan put out by Maureen Sullivan.

TOSA seems to be more reactive re: tech support/educating teachers....we want to be pro-active...thinking and planning ahead.

Sarah:

This topic is to be continued at the next meeting to move forward to discuss tech needs, create a standard at each grade level for current/near future tech evolution, how to make policy change via Site Council vehicle.

Minutes from(2/16) to be approved at next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.