MINUTES
West Hillsborough School Site Council
March 18, 2015

1. Call to Order.
Members present: Jamie Adams, Jamie Evare, Vicki Volden, Sherry Gavin, Megan Medvitz, Chris Flores, Sarah Adams, Theo Kotseroglou, Suma Raju, Teresa Pai, Leslie Huie
Absent: Christy Maclean-Chu
Guests: John Lavrich, Marlene Tuzar, Sandy Lai, Roger Avedon, Don Geddis, Judith Pappas

2. Minutes for 1/18 and 2/18 Approved.

3. In Conversation with Special Guest, Maureen Sullivan, HCSD Director of Technology.

Overview lens from HCSdistrict's perspective and use of Computer Technology in our schools.
Ms. Sullivan is working on doctorate learning tech. Just returned from Singapore, and believes we are on par and perhaps better than some other countries.

History
Back 5/6 years each school had a specialist, a classified position not certificated teacher position. That specialist spent 1x week for 1 hour with upper elementary grades; and ½ hour once week for younger elementary grades.

Younger…focused on keyboarding, integration in classroom.
Too separated/disjointed.

Technology is a TOOL, not an isolated tool.

Tech specialist on Thursdays average 5-6 days per month, focused on upper ? grades///
K-2 teachers one hour;
3-5 felt they had the skills and started to incorporate in to curriculum.
Felt that was better model.

Janice (computer specialist) retired last year…took on two-fold role, teaching students and teachers, modeling for teacher.
Transition to TOSA…
Solely working with teachers.

Added three new laptop carts at West to use technology and connect in to curriculum.
TOSA is two-year position, and will re-assess then, end of 2015-2016 year. Needs will change …that's TECH, ever-evolving.
Can we continue and what should it look like?
Tying in the technology with Common Core….

Theo: hard to have metrics and quantify, how to switch from one model to another…what is model? What is goal? Ultimately to provide all students with range of tech exposure/opportunity…up to teacher's desire about how to use....

What are the CC standards that tie in technology?
Public speaking, etc.
Ex: child making podcast
*Uses ISTE standards now; aligned what K-5 teachers were offering and working with specialist…

Now Crocker uses chrome books using Google Drive….
Want to make the transition clear

John:
*ISTE standards and work with computer specialists who know more.
What are we doing to bring standards to teachers, to measure and apply?
What about teachers who are late to embrace….how do we as a school ensure that each child is not left behind so that they are all exposed equally?
How to transition ISTE to faculty?
How to ensure consistency w/in faculty?

Main goal of TOSA is to teach one-on-one (to teachers).
Goal by end of 2015 to have all students (or teachers?) at the baseline.

At the end of first tri-mester, what are goals? Should he be spending his time with the superstars or those who need more exposure?

Roger:
Challenge of INFO TECH changes constantly…
Imagine a teacher less comfortable, how to keep up?
How is the District going to manage that level of competency?

Maureen: An Anthony question to answer.
Best answer here: We are looking for willingness….of teachers to try their best.

Sandy:
Has the TOSA been able to meet with each Teacher?

Maureen:
Yes, yet some with some grade levels. Give them skills so they are comfortable applying tech.

Jamie:
The TOSA has that data needed. Jamie makes that assessment too.

Marlene:
Likes the idea that TECH is used as a tool integrated in to curriculum.
Ex: because standards say that PowerPoint, etc, targeted in 2nd grade, does that mean that child will know what to do in 3rd grade?
Technology first semester and dinosaurs second semester in 2nd grade?
Or?

Maureen:
They want teachers to teach the application through the project, then use the application.

Marlene:
Would be interesting after 18 months to look back , and ask teachers if they can assess the incoming students.

Megan:
As 4th grade teachers, that alignment and assessment from grade levels growing.

Maureen:
Questions…is it appropriate to use PowerPoint and others…now not 1 person teaching but 18 teachers ..

John:
Would like to see the ISTE standards posted on website. .low cost way to help communication.. also for teachers. And parents. To make sure kids are at that level.

Sandy:
The teachers have to know all the standards through K-5; Common core standards…3rd grade doing poems on You Tube….jump through CC….

Teresa:
Hillsborough using ISTE…Hillsborough broke down skills by grade level. For Crocker also? Has changed more than K-5.

Also, is there a moment where you would test the kids to make sure they are competent in using technology?

Megan:
No tests, in Essential Outcomes there's a Technology score…, gauge through observation which is an authentic.

Judy:
Use PowerPoint, word-processor daily…how it's being integrated in to classroom is a challenge..
TOSA has been wonderful.

Jamie:
Assessment always pushes curriculum.

Teresa:
Will there be a percentage (%) of use of Technology in classroom/district?

Theo:
TESTING….is this all we want the kids to do?

Teresa:

Tools are fundamental…are there requirements for incorporating into fundamentals and daily curriculum?

Maureen:
There are five CARTS or 125 computers students can use at once. As we use more technology students have greater opportunity…

Do we want Kinders to sit in front of computer or learn social skills?
Will technology help or hinder goals?
We need to look at and balance how Technology is integrated in to system.

Teresa:
Concerned that the District is spending much too much money on hardware and know how the teachers are using it.

Maureen:
How Technology is integrated in to the curriculum.
No additional plan to expand beyond 3 carts and after 4 years look at it.

Judy:
The Common Core and Technology are integrated and it is a critical part and future.

Leslie:
Is Coding appropriate in school?

Maureen:
Yes, coming in to 4th grade.

Marlene:
Wants to keep an eye on Common Core, but as parents/humans want to know what the grade level expectation is…wants to keep the Mindfulness of Technology and more is not more. ..keep eyes on appropriateness of age.

Maureen:

Coding. Added Elective…don't have teachers with those coding skills…Hillsborough Recreation has afterschool programs….would like to see more visual coding because foundational. Helps kids gain more perspective.. hard to know what will be the language in 5/10 years. .so many languages now. Ties in to Essential Outcomes…etc…teaches critical thinking…beyond just using the language. Maybe use Scratch to get introduced.. ILAB do a lot for Cricket project. An area of growth…

Theo:
Next level, use Google maps for distances, explore and patterns of growth, life cycle of science…. How do you get the kids in to this?
How to introduce in the science?

Sherry:
Capture the WOW factor…with microscopes…etc.

Maureen:
How do you build an object?

Roger:
Interesting Theo…
The application "COSMOS…orbital mechanics" is counter intuitive. Ex: get closer to planet speed up…..
Why not through GAMES??…
So much time and money…
How to find the balance?
Tech moving so fast makes it easier and now.

Maureen:
With technology trying to quantify and showing whether or not reaching standards..

Teresa:
Seems like the TOSA is stretched thin. Is Maureen Sullivan or Ms. Model actively exploring replacements for lesson plans?

Maureen:
Right now we are using a combination of three people and teachers…there are a variety of resources…

Leslie:
How is the Cyber Safety and Digital Tatoo seminar?
Teachers teaching CS lessons…

Jamie Evare:
Scope and Sequence on Common Sense Media…

John:
Digital Tatoo… reports that other kids are bringing inappropriate images on I phones and I pads…is there a possibility to refresh parents about censoring subject matter. FB images of ?

Jamie Adams:
Cellular phones are not supposed to be out during day… will remind teachers…

Roger:
'No phones' is going to feel antiquated… 5th grader is texting, etc….

Principal's replacement, faculty, parents and students needs to make sure that there's a phone-use issue.

Teresa:
4th grade using Google Docs …has a concern about this. Need an e-mail address, so fake that…then they start Google Chat, have access to images, and there is only so much to do to manage awareness…need parameters..

Facebook and Instagram accounts

Jamie Adams:
Need parameters…at 4th grade young enough to maybe educate more easily..

Teresa:
At Crocker…ex: on E-assignment for Valentine …search for V images you can imagine what pops up for viewing!

Theo:
Parents could see what was being sent on Google Docs….a positive…

Maureen:
Current domain with student sites…pushing down to 4th grade is a possibility…account is locked so child wouldn't be able to e-mail. Can SHARE but not e-mail…would probably want to control more with K-5.

Roger:
Google account not managed …imposing a burden on family.
Cloud computing here to stay…
The school is going to have to bite that off….

Teresa:
How long to implement for kids?

Maureen:
Working on it…..

Jamie Adams:
Kids more sophisticated, and therefore more provocative..

Maureen:
Some Crocker parents have chosen not to use Google Docs…a handful…not comfortable..instead can use word or Microsoft, Friends see it anyway…

Challenge to respect desires…

Sandy:
Familiar with Common Sense media…does Hillsborough have access to list of games like Osmosis/Cosmos (?), which are educational….

Why not create database…and post…game of week on West world website?

John:
School-wide location for games, apps, at grade level…can become culturally part of HCSD…

Jamie Adams:
Can pull resources….that are already there…

4. Recruiting for Site Council.
Marlene Tuzar has agreed to join West's Site Council for the next two year; we need two more parents to join.

5. Roger Avedon and Council propose a Discussion and Celebration of Principal Jamie Adams' achievements during the past seven years at West. Other considerations relate to Jamie's replacement at West.

6. Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting April 29th, 2015, West School Library, 3:20pm.