

## **Technology Committee Minutes**

September 10, 2013

In attendance: Mike Reed, Tom Johnson, Darrin Enerson, Brandon Huberty, and Sean Koster

### **Donated Computer Towers:**

Fifteen computer towers were donated to the school. We are hoping to utilize these by putting one in each general ed. classroom. To make flipping classrooms easier with these computers, we are looking into hospital grade computer carts that cost only \$15 per cart.

### **Teacher Websites vs. School Reach Sites- Cost and Effectiveness:**

Tech Committee is recommending phasing out our current teacher website program, School World, and replacing it with Synergy's teacher website program.

Committee wants to make sure staff have the time and are prepared to make this switch. Will be offering a presentation on creating a teacher website using Synergy on the next professional development day

Would also need to make parents aware of the shift to Synergy based teacher websites.

Dates that the full transition could possibly occur: MEA, Winter Break or start of next year.

### **State of Budget:**

Beacon is limping on border device (firewall). Current one is far out of date creating possible security weaknesses in our network. We are budgeted for update. With new device, would eventually need to deal with recurring costs to keep border devices up to standard.

Laptops came in under budget as did sound equipment.

Evaluating student response system: Have found some sets that come in at budget. Though there is some concern that if purchased, staff may not utilize devices. We will demo how student response systems work at staff meeting and ask teachers if they have an interest in these devices.

### **Portable Device Usage:**

Parent asked for clarification of policy of mobile devices on how they can be used. Mobile devices being used for reading are okay. Problem: students can easily switch out of reading apps to non-reading apps.

Recommendation: Devices for reading purposes only. Designated reader devices and tablets okay. No phones, Ipods, or earbuds.

### **Mimeo Boards**

Order more Mimeo boards?

Advantageous. Teachers are using them. Kindergarten teachers believe they are getting good results. They are saying students are getting concept faster and acquiring skill.

Mimeo Boards-Currently have 6. Want to buy 4 new Mimeo boards. Mike will check to see if we can get a demo for new boards.