

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL MEETING
June 1, 2009 5:00 PM
NMMS

In attendance: Daniel Rossner, Eric Chase, Nancy Mills, Josh Mulloy, Clay Dingman, Sandra Heaney, Vincent Paul Migliore, Todd Westfall, Christine Hunewell

Daniel Rossner called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm

Salute to the Flag

Motion by Clay, second by Eric to approve the minutes of 5/4/09. 9 -0-0 *Motion Passed.*

Old Business

We reviewed the results of the wage survey that was conducted after the last meeting. Dan explained the methodology with which the information was collected. Group was unanimous in their appreciation for the thoroughness and the speed in which it was completed.

Todd questioned where the other districts have been hiding their staffing, as the state reporting does not match what they have disclosed here; he further noted that Newfound has always been truthful in its reporting.

It was noted that the reorganization was approved, and that the Technology Support Specialist position has been posted on the District website as well as edjobsnh.com. Résumés are trickling in. Other ideas for advertising positions that were recommended by the group include nhworks.com, craigslist and to speak with Kathleen Girona.

New Business

A roundtable discussion was held regarding the process for an internal review of our IT strengths and weaknesses. Below is a summary of some major points of input and thoughts on the matter:

TW-> It should be a living document, as needs and skills change, where are we, and what do we need?

SH-> Start with a needs assessment. Match skills with needs. Use to determine training needs. Use this analysis to determine our needs for further training.

TW-> How do we determine what skills are we going to need? How would we handle a major malfunction?

SH -> Crisis Management has to be considered.

TW-> Consider using the information in ITAM to determine typical problems. Is everything being logged in?

DR-> Probably not everything from IT staff.

JM-> Really the logs are from users only. He is more project based (has been).

SH-> It should be more than what we have been doing, but what we should be doing as well, best practices.

VPM-> Are we tracking the availability of assets (Up time)?

JM-> Investigating an Open Source tracking product. Currently Web2School servers are being tracked, that's it. Hopes to expand this functionality.

VPM-> Interested in publishing a metric on how we are doing on this subject.

TW-> The value of logging that data in a solution if possible. Recommends looking at the State survey for stuff. Spoke of bandwidth monitoring by functional area, refer back to the needs of the living document.

There was a brief discussion of the value of web based solutions whether hosted internally or externally. We should check on the skills needed to make applications accessible to the public. In addition, JM to explore an efficiency rubric put out by ISTE for our next meeting.

The next topic of discussion was that of the recent laptop deployment. There is no issue with the staff laptops (other than a minor modem issue with), but issues have taken place with the laptop cart rollout.

Josh briefed the group on file storage issues with the student cart deployment. Vincent asked how the staff was tolerating the issues. Nancy spoke of the fairly high level of frustration, lack of training in advance of the roll out, and panic setting in with many seniors as this was really crunch time for them to get their projects complete. It seems multi platform file storage has been an issue. Parents and teachers have been questioning the use of open source software if we are supposedly training people to enter a workplace where licensed software products are utilized. Staff not really sure how to address these questions or comments, other than the ability to buy more resources with this strategy. Clay offered to craft a better response for staff use.

Group idea – Next deployment should have a beta group of students utilized to test the image prior to roll out.

Also – We must find a resource for users to seek out solutions for the issues encountered.

In questioning the OS X server issues and how they tie in to the file storage issues, there was discussion about the longevity of these assets. There are no RAID drives and, this is an issue. This server holds the majority of our student files, and needs to be addressed.

TW-> Given State requirements for Portfolio from students, we need to address server ASAP. It must support Mac, Windows, and Linux.

JM-> We do have a very complex architecture for file storage.

TW-> Recommends Linux Server Professional Development for staff and building a cheap test model prior to full acquisition. Need to budget for server replacement, and in doing so, we should analyze data regarding: # of students, data storage required per student, etc. Assess the number of drives to be running.

All recommend talking with David Rose about this subject. DR to reach out to him. David has the resource connections. Clay recommended we also speak with David Kobrenski.

CD-> How are things now?

JM-> Students are using some Apples for portfolio completion, and he expects to finish the new image this week that should alleviate the problem with storage.

NM-> Timing was an issue, hopefully we have learned from this deployment. Allowing the staff to take the new laptops home over the summer will greatly increase their comfort level with the new machines, which will improve their ability to work with the students on these "black boxes".

A general discussion was held about how to improve roll outs in the future. Beta groups, better communication, and in house forum (Wiki) should all improve the next deployment.

DR stated that his goal for the next Council meeting would be two fold:

- a) To have the first draft of the internal analysis document complete for the Council to review.
- b) To have a detailed plan for the use of FY10 acquisition intended funds.

The next meeting of the Council was set for Monday, September 14th at 5:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm.