

NASD TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

MEETING 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tuesday June 26th, 2012

SAU Office Bristol

In Attendance: Dan Rossner, Don Franklin, Todd Westfall, Clay Dingman, Christine Hunewell

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

DR welcomed all, gave review of projects initiated and completed since last meeting. These included the new wireless infrastructure within the buildings as well as the new Data Pipe Architecture between the NASD buildings and the outside world. We reviewed bandwidth upgrades, cost changes, providers engaged, etc.

Broad support and approval for the Data Pipe upgrades was received from the group. Todd in particular was pleased with the decisions surrounding the FairPoint Fiber lines, the abilities that the line at NRHS would provide our students for alternative learning opportunities, and the decision to share the NMMS Fiber line with BES and the SAU offices via in-house wireless solution. It is reminiscent of a solution he proposed some years ago.

A roundtable discussion about the contents of our current three year technology plan, some of its key milestones and targets, and the need to begin work on the next three year plan which should be presented to the Board for approval by next spring so that it can be sent on to the State for same (pending Board approval).

Dan circulated to the group two sets of information. Item one is the Computer Distribution spreadsheet used for understanding total asset distribution by Operating System, Age, and location. Item two separated the assets by Student or Staff use or server. This data was used for group consensus with the next phase of work in our Tech Plan. We have reached our goal for computer:student ratio, and the work to be done is to reduce the age of our assets towards goals previously approved by the Board that Desktop computers lasting eight years and Laptop computers lasting five. This discussion led into the next agenda item, Chromebook Operating System.

A new breed of laptops is currently available, which utilize the “Chrome Operating System” from Google. The IT staff wanted to utilize this technology for the first major phase of asset age reduction for the current year. If approved, the plan would be to acquire a laptops utilizing this operating system, and install in Laptop carts at NRHS and NMMS. The fairly new (2-3 years) laptops in those carts would then be re-purposed to take highly aged machines (many with a problematic O/S) out of service. One of the greatest benefits to this plan would be increased up-time for students in class. The details of this concept were discussed by the group. **The Technology Council voiced unanimous support to strongly recommend this plan to the School Board.** In noting that one Tech Plan goal was to reduce the number of O/S managed by the district, it was acknowledged that this plan would add a new one, but take at least one and probably two out of service. (PPC & XP)

A brief discussion about the challenges of getting full warranty on Laptops and T.C.O. (Total Cost of Ownership) was initiated by Todd; Dan reviewed current buying strategy and operational results on same with group.

In reviewing the upcoming schedule, we discussed meeting at least quarterly during the coming year, so as to hear about and provide guidance on the development of the next three year Tech Plan. Chris brought the subject of Web-Based Portfolio solutions up for inclusion in the next plan. She also briefed the group on how the ICT team has been providing storage ability for student portfolios so far. Other topics suggested by the group for contemplation within our next plan included: Budget, Data Task Force Comp’s, a more secure Server Room at the SAU, and “SpiceWorks” an open source (free) IT Support System.

Next meeting date: TBD

Adjournment – 6:10 PM