

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
NOVEMBER 16, 2009 8:00 P.M.

(Visit our website at www.masd.info)

Mr. Karl Wimmer
Chairperson

Mr. Craig Owens
Administrative Representative

I. WELCOME

November 16, 2009 Technology Committee meeting began at 8:00 PM

II. ATTENDANCE

Board members present included Karl Wimmer, Mary Homan, Gloria Smith, Kathy Mordovancey and Chris Caterson

Administrators present included Craig Owens

III. OLD BUSINESS

- **Technology Coach Utilization:** Mr. Owens began the discussion by referencing the log that all board members have been furnished with in an earlier summary. Log will be continued throughout the year in an effort to provide the board with an overview of her work during the year with the professional staff at all levels.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- **VLINC Discussion:** Mr. Owens began by providing each board member present with the notes from Julie Humphrey regarding the sessions she attended at the recent PSBA Conference. Julie offered information on the strategies utilized in other districts regarding their attempts to bring their students back to their own cyber school versus the other cyber charter schools out there. Included in those strategies were:
 - ✓ Public meetings with the families of cyber charter school students in their district. The results of those meetings were discouraging at first and their advice to us was to continue with those meetings and eventually you may draw interest.
 - ✓ They emphasized that because cyber schools have such an ability to advertise that they utilized the option of constantly presenting the advantages to be gained by their own cyber school option including all classes on line, partial classes on line (then coming to school for ½ or ¼ of the day as scheduled; and, offering students the potential to attend shop classes, gym classes and extracurricular activities within the school.
 - ✓ Immediate contact of students who indicate they are going to leave school and attempting to persuade them to enroll in the district cyber school.
 - ✓ They provide PC's to families that don't have one and a reimbursement to offset some of the cost of the internet connections if more than ½ of the curriculum is taken on line.

Mr. Owens then continued the discussion presenting the strategies that we have currently utilized, including our meetings with parents, contacting all parents who have children enrolled in cyber charter schools, etc. Craig related that 15 of our current students are enrolled in VLINC with an additional 20 students enrolled in other cyber charter schools across the state.

- **Versatrans:** Mr. Owens described the most recent training that Rickie, Chris Tripp, Lucille and Craig recently attended. The training was conducted on site in the Technology Office and all four attended. Craig related that it really provided him with an excellent insight into the current capabilities of the system and relieved any concerns he had regarding the capability of the system. He related that his primary concern is the data entry that currently exists in the system. Currently, the data is still not at a point of accuracy that it needs to be. The primary reason is that there is still much too much reliance on the contractors and bus drivers for the accurate information. Craig

has identified other means of acquiring that information that is far more reliable and is working on getting the data from those sources. For example, we are still working off of our initial map from 2001 and we are in the process of acquiring the most recent information from 911 of Susquehanna County. The training will also improve the reliability and accuracy of the data as means of pulling the information directly from MMS have been identified and will be implemented shortly. This will add an incremental amount of automatic adjustments into the system and speed up the process as well as increasing its accuracy. Craig once again emphasized that Versatrans can do what we need it to do and the most recent training should fill in many of the gaps in the training in order to provide more accurate data. The goal is to utilize the software, automat the entry process as much as possible by utilizing data entered into MMS at the time of enrollment, and having the software assign the bus, the bus stop and the time of the stop based on the current data in the system. He also emphasized he has been very impressed by the ability of the Versatrans personnel conducting the training as well as the software support that the company offers. Mr. Owens would like to have all of the necessary adjustments in place in time for kindergarten enrollment so that the Transportation Secretary can be a station at the enrollment process and students are accurately entered and plotted at that time. Once they are in the system the only adjustments that will be required are if the student relocates within the district or moves from the district.

Mr. Wimmer explained to those present how the additional subsidy spreadsheet is created. The bus contract numbers that are approved in October are utilized to create the original spreadsheet and that sheet remains unchanged for the remainder of the school year. The two numbers that are utilized are student numbers on the bus and miles run by that bus. The calendar data is then entered as well and the current diesel fuel price data is entered at the end of each quarter.

- **Copier Contract Recommendation:** Mr. Owens briefly reviewed the contract recommendation once again and updated the board members present regarding a \$40 deviation in the amount presented that evening as a result of the addition of a “saddle stitch” option to one of the copiers that will service each of the elementary schools. That contract will be ready to execute the contract the day after the board meeting. He explained that the next step in the process will be to eliminate the individual color printers that are located throughout the school buildings. He does not anticipate that to be a problem with the staff. There will be a training session for all staff at the January in-service to acquaint them with the network capabilities of the new printers. In response to a question regarding the disposal of the current printers that will be eliminated, Mr. Owens explained that he would prefer to recycle them versus giving them away to the community.
- **SIF Update:** The directory component is complete – that component allows a network user to be created automatically upon entering the new student data in MMS. That certainly expedites the process and makes it more efficient.
- **Board Utilization of District email:** Mr. Owens explained that it is the recommendation of the Technology Department that email utilization regarding board business be done utilizing the district email address of board member’s only. As of now, board members are also able to have those emails forwarded to other addresses – home, business, etc. You would continue to be able to access those emails from any internet site by use of the district web page entry.

V. **OPEN FORUM** – There were no open forum items at tonight’s meeting.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Mike Ognosky