

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35
Technology Committee Notes April 14, 2011

Attending the meetings were: Haydee Montemayor, Jennifer Spegal, Judith Hyden, Steve Saint-Coeur, Allison Fluke, Christine Bogart, Linda South,

Absent from the meeting were: Carolos Robles, Jennifer Argyros, Judy Riffle, Rodney Rich, Dave Verdugo, Renee Huerta, Jim Anders and John Fanning, Mary Lucker, Kim Armenta, Eleanore Rankin,

Meeting Norms: Haydee welcomed the Technology Committee and asked that they feel free to share their comments and that they speak up so that everybody can hear them.

Google Docs Method for Providing Feedback for Internet Use Policies:

Haydee asked the committee to provide feedback for the Google Docs Collaboration process. Judith Hyden stated that the cursor on Google Docs is still falling behind as she types. While it was originally thought that going directly to Google Docs wouldn't cause this issue to happen, it still does. Google Chrome users that had originally reported no issues are having trouble with it lately. After thinking about what the causes were, Steve Saint-Coeur hypothesized that the cause for this lag could be as a result of bandwidth, plug-ins, or update issues. However, based on the direct access nature of using the Gmail account directly, it most likely would be the better option. Linda South stated that the actual sharing of documents needs to be done via the Ideal account. That is the reason why the Tech Committee shared the accounts with Haydee. Steve Saint-Coeur does not anticipate this problem when switching to Gmail.

Haydee Montemayor is still working on cleaning up the policies. When they're ready, she will share them with the Technology Committee.

Web Blocking/Web Use/Filtering System:

Linda South and Allison Fluke both said that teachers at their schools are happy. Steve Saint-Coeur is wondering if the district should block Hulu given that people are watching sports, NCAA, the Jon Stewart show and cartoons and that is causing some bandwidth concerns. Alison Fluke said that people can go to the main network site to see a video rather than using Hulu. Steve Saint-Coeur stated that radio streaming of rock n' roll stations, for example, is taking place, and taking up a lot of space. Alison Fluke said that she knows teachers who are using the radio for background music for tests and to listen to what they can't get from the radio station. The Technology Committee reached a committee to not make Hulu available. Linda South suggested that Pandora still remains available, however, she suggests letting people know that there needs to be a valid, educational purpose for using Pandora, although that might lead more people to be aware that it's available. Steve Saint-Coeur therefore stated that there needs to be a consensus of what should be blocked and the policies need to be ready given that he does not want to be the internet police on an everyday basis. One of his major concerns regarding

bandwidth is that there are times in which he can't work on Genesis and other things as a result of such little bandwidth availability. Even with a greater amount of bandwidth, the district is at a 95% saturation. Currently, there are people using Netflix, to watch TV, although in some cases to show documentaries or a National Geographic episode. Haydee Montemayor suggested limiting the time when these sites can be open. For instance, those sites can be made available after school ends at each of the schools so that having that additional bandwidth can allow people to actually work. In the event that a teacher needs to access one of those sites for educational purposes, they could contact Steve and/or Tech Support to request that site to be opened. Steve Saint-Coeur agreed and said that he can individually restrict people at the school from accessing those sites depending at what time school lets out for those particular sites. If in fact teachers and staff members like having the freedom of having access to additional sites, they have to understand that we all need to share the bandwidth.

Alison Fluke asked if iTunes was available as it had a lot of documentaries and National Geographic information. Steve Saint-Coeur said that currently, the district does not support Apple products. Steve Saint-Coeur also reminded teachers that Teacher Tube is available. It would be ideal if teachers could be given a list of useful websites or seminars that are educational and informational. Teachers should also be taught how to download items, including videos, ahead of time, such as the afternoon prior to a lesson to ensure that it is downloaded and readily available during the lesson and that they aren't taking up more bandwidth or struggling to obtain the bandwidth during the day, when bandwidth is less readily available. Taking the time to download large files during the end of the day will save teachers time and frustration, since it usually takes a long time to download large files, especially when the bandwidth is scarce.

Google Docs:

Haydee Montemayor informed the Tech Committee that Mr. Rich informed her that the principals are okay with adopting Gmail. However, for next year, Mr. Rich suggests that the _____ teachers are the first to obtain the service.

Since our last meeting Steve Saint-Coeur has asked if there is a less expensive version of the services required to obtain a Google Docs account and there is. Two other companies have been contacted and have quoted different prices, but unfortunately, they lack the protection of Postini's email retention. Postini is interfaced by user, which we don't have now. Currently, an individual accounts costs is \$4.00 per year for 25G on Postini. If there are 220 teachers, that would be about \$10,000 versus the \$17,000 from the previous price quote that Steve had given us. When Steve asked the state what the policy was for retaining email documentation for legal purposes, the state said that they needed 90 days, but apparently, they're not really sure as they weren't able to provide Steve with a policy backing up their statement.

The next steps for this transition are the following: We need a purchase commitment for teachers, then retire Microsoft Exchange server, then Steve can call Google to make the change over the summer.

New Website:

Nobody had any comments. Steve Saint-Coeur will speak to the website developer and provide him with the suggestions that the Tech Committee had come up with. Steve Saint-Coeur will provide us with some feedback at the next Technology Committee.

Genesis:

When discussing updates regarding Genesis Alison Fluke commented that there were buttons on Genesis that had disappeared and then repapered. Steve Saint-Coeur commented that he wrote a script to remove cache and then waited for anyone to say that the buttons had reappeared to know that it had worked.

Haydee asked if anybody had had difficulty printing screenshots from Genesis using the "Print Screen" feature given that there was an administrator who was having issues with sending an email that he needed to send with these screenshots.

Steve Saint-Coeur shared that parents needs to have an update on Genesis. The committee dealing with Genesis is trying to see how to best approach this. They are asking, " Do we give a card to all parents or to parents who show up and want to learn about Genesis?" These questions need to be addressed. The Technology Committee's recommendation is to send it to every parent to ensure equality amongst parents receiving the information. Alison Fluke suggests that students can help parents log on. Haydee Montemayor stated that there might be an issue with parents having a valid password if students get on as well and change access. Steve Saint Coeur clarified that there will be two accounts--- one for students and the other one for parents. They will each be able to use their own to log in. Steve commented that making these portals available is another way for students and parents to get involved given that teachers can update their information and can have resources available to students, as well as be able to have a back up of student records.

Updates by Steve:

Haydee provided a Technology Fund update. There will be no EEIT funding for next year. The committee suggested that in the meantime, teachers should take advantage of free virtual conferences.

Steve Saint-Coeur provided an update regarding the dispersion of internet. Currently, there are 120 Wireless access points. The SC portables, bus barn and green house need access points. Based on research and technology trends, the prevalence of tablets is coming soon. They will most likely become more popular than laptops. Steve Saint-Coeur will be attending a meeting tomorrow to finalize costs. The switches need to be replaced to handle 400mb, rather than 100mb. There's \$650,000 to do wireless switch points. It will be liberating, given that it will be 8X faster. The district will still need to pay 15% of it. He is looking to incorporate it in the places that the district needs them most. He does not want to be wasteful with the funds that are available, such as if he were to replace switches.

In the Fall, we should have a Parent Review available, Google Docs should be ready, we should have wireless, and more bandwidth between campuses.

Questions:

The committee asked the following questions:

- Donna Bazzo: Are we going to have phones?
 - Alison Fluke agrees that there should be more phones at the high school as well.
 - She considers this to be a security issue given that she has pushed the intercom button at the high school and nobody was responding. After 3 or 4 minutes somebody from the office responded. 10-15 minutes later, the security guard came to the room.
 - This issue wasn't completely urgent, but she worries that if it was, that the school would take that long to come to assist.
 - If the RRHS expects teachers to call parents for student performance, and there is only 1 phone for 9 teachers at the Teacher Workroom and that requires having to leave the classroom that complicates matters.
 - Despite the common assumption, teachers cannot always depend on being able to use their cell phone given that some carriers don't work at certain campuses.
 - Steve Saint-Coeur stated that the district is asking to prioritize whether we want phones or wireless access. If the priority is phones, it would have to be an overhaul.
 - Donna Bazzo notices that there is a difference between how many interruptions occur in the classroom depending on whether or not the teachers have classroom phones or if the office has to rely on using the all-call feature of the intercom, although they should have the capability to call individual classroom or school locations, without interrupting the whole campus.
 - For some teachers, answering the phone in the middle of a lesson can also be considered an interruption.
 - Steve Saint-Coeur believes that there should be equal opportunity of resources for all the teachers and he has this in mind as he improves the technology resources for the district. However, in this case, some teachers have phones in their classrooms and some don't. He believes that voice over/ICP would help. So far, the district is more focused on integrating more wireless access.

Items for future meeting:

During the next board meeting, Steve-Saint Coeur will provide us with updates on April 26th Board meeting in which he will be presenting technology information, and he will update us on the board meeting and on web designer's comments regarding our suggestions. At the board meeting, Steve will show them how much grant money is available for wireless. He will also show them what the schools have said that they need. If there is an internet upscale, there is a possibility that this could release some money towards phone installation.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011.