SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE NOTES March 7, 2013, at 3:45 p.m., in the CMS Library

I. Introduction

A public meeting of the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35
Technology Committee was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

Present at the meeting were the following: Stephen Saint-Coeur, Isaac Harris, Alonso Bailey, Donna Bazzo, Judith Hyden, Eleanor Rankin, Linda South, Raymond Meeker, Jennifer Meeker and Susan Babler.

II. Discussion:

The committee opened with a discussion about the new district website. Overall the impression was that the new website is much better than the old. Questions were raised as to how we update content. It was explained that the Parent-Liaison at each site is responsible for updating the content. It was also recommended that teacher develop their own websites using Google- sites which can be linked to the new website. Mr. Saint-Coeur explained that the link for Destiny Library as well as Synergy is now the same on campus as off campus as a part of this upgrade.

Mr. Saint-Coeur explained that it may be possible next year to give all of the students email accounts in the new Google Postini setup. The new Google Chromebooks to be used at Rio Rico High will require Google accounts to work. Mr. Saint-Coeur also indicated that the district has to approve this before it can proceed. Mr. Saint-Coeur asked committee members to take a look and evaluate the Google Apps environment. The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of Chromebooks.

The requirements for the new PARCC testing were outlined and discussed. The requirements are a 10.1" or larger screen, 1GB RAM, and a connection to the internet. The Chromebooks discussed meet this requirement.

Mr. Saint-Coeur outlined ERate improvement for the next year. The connections between campuses will remain at the 100 Mbps connection. The Internet connection will be increased 500% from

the current 20 Mbps to a 100Mbps connection. It was explained that we cannot anticipate Priority 2 funding for wireless improvements from ERate as Priority 2 funding remains limited under the current program. Mr. Saint-Coeur also explained that the technology plan for the district was submitted on January 8th and that we were still waiting for approval from the state.

Jennifer Meeker discussed the Donors Choose Program that allows teachers to apply for mini-grants for technology for the classroom. She explained how she gave a half-day training for her staff at Pena Blanca that outlined how to apply for that grant. Mr. Saint-Coeur also informed the group that according to the Superintendent starting next year Principals at all sites will be allocating at least 1 day per semester for training in technology. This would allow for anyone on the committee to do a presentation and Jennifer indicated that she would be happy to assist anyone who wants to setup a website to assist in that training. Mr. Saint-Coeur also asked committee members to remind teachers who are applying for grants to make sure they contact the IT department before making a purchase to insure that the equipment is compatible with the current network infrastructure. Donna Bazzo reminded the members to touch base with the Business department before applying for grants to make sure that the appropriate paperwork is filed beforehand.

An update on the technology grant for Rio Rico High school was covered by Mr. Saint-Coeur. He indicated that while a majority of the money will be spent on just the High School, benefits will be seen at all of the other sites. He indicated that Mr. Schadler is pushing to see that students get access to Stoneware across the district as a learning platform as a result of this grant. Mr. Saint-Coeur reminded the committee that Stoneware was the software package that was presented to this committee earlier in the year and was approved as a purchase item by the committee. The grant will cover the cost at RRHS of upgrading the wireless network, adding additional drops to 2 labs, covering the cost of a Moodle server as well as Stoneware, buying 10 new laptop carts , 60 desktops for Cima Vista, 30 new desktops for the Rio Rico Library, projector mounts for all classroom, 20 teacher laptops, and 25 Mimios as well as support staff costs.