MCSOH HWSW SUBCOMM
(Hardware/Software development sub-committee)

Connecting Tech Across the District

Meeting Minutes
10 NOV 2010
739 Weymouth Rd
Room 101 – Tech Lab

The sub committee team developed and posted a survey prior to our half day meeting. The survey was completed by Technology Committee Members, a wide range of teaching staff, and administrative team members, a total of 93 participants. The results were reviewed and debated by the sub-committee and pros and cons brought to light. In the survey and through discussion, having every classroom with 1 computer, a projection device and an interactive device to control the computer, easily rose to the top. The committee was very "district" focused and came to the consensus quickly that all rooms must have this minimal standard and should be the district's the top tech priority. Responses for the second and third priorities, pointed toward a wireless option.

We then moved to concentrate on the specifics of every classroom having 1 computer, a projection device and an interactive device to control computer. A ceiling mounted, networked light projector was the obvious direction as it was the overwhelming choice in the survey and within the group. The debate then fell to the interactive device. After reviewing the respondents reasons for a Smart board, we came to the conclusion that a interactive slate, like a Mimio, can duplicate every feature/advantage of a wall mounted Smart board and provide the class room teacher with added flexibility at a third of the cost or less. (Mimio's have been costing $299.00/unit and Smart boards are estimated between $1200 - $2000.00/each). Some of the flexible features of the Mimio are: Anywhere/anyone use in the classroom, presenter does not block image on screen, and image dimensions are only inhibited by the size of the wall. A standard desktop computer was the overwhelming choice to control and operate these systems.

Then our discussion and review of the survey responses turned to the peripherals and number of classrooms. Clickers, AKA classroom response system, rose to the top. However, it took the shape of equipping each classroom with a radio receiver as a standard piece of the foot print so that any teacher could for example check-out one of multiple building sets from the media center. This could also lead to the Clicker being an item that is added to the supply list for each student, it could be offered as an item in school book stores etc. To allow this to work seamlessly across the district, we would need to select a vendor, (Turning point, CPS, Quizdom, Promethean) and standardize. Several vendor conversations have been initiated and we have discovered that there are buyback programs available.

Members:

Shannon Conley	**Tess Ewart**	**David Hamman**
Jack Howell	**Dale McRitchie**	**Emily Padias**
Mike Paffumi	**Pam Shirk**	

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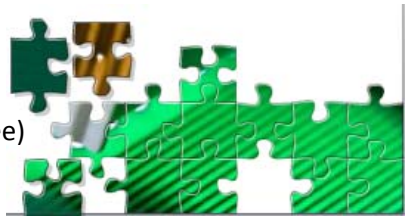

Committee's Foot-Print Recommendation (LEVEL I):

1 Desktop computer (Dell or equal @ $700-$950 w/3yr warrantee)
1 Ceiling mounted, network light projector (Epson $700-$850)
1 Wiring package (depending on room $0 – $500)
1 Interactive slate (Mimio $299.00)
1 Student response system radio receiver ($100-$250)

(Note: radio receiver is an upgrade over current IR (infrared) systems… with IR receivers, clicker users must more or less point the devices at the receivers and are less sensitive than the radio… radio is a better technology in that it provides better reception and allows for self paced activities)

Total costs per room – high estimate ($2550.00) Low estimate ($1799.00)

Second priority to the Foot-print (LEVEL II):

Sound enhancement systems ($800-$900): research based tool that will allow fluid integration of electronic multimedia, whether internet based or on existing media (i.e. CD/DVD) while adding a wireless microphone that can be used by the students or teacher that will work simultaneously with other media and set to be heard over whatever is being broadcasted.

Third priority to the Foot-print (LEVEL III):

Webcam… a unit that is usually now integrated into most mobile computing devices. It will allow interactivity between classroom and the world… one can use your imagination. The device will function in a multitude of ways, from being a basic document camera, to recording lessons to be posted on to a web page or into an LMS (Learning Management System) like Blackboard.

The meeting had a staggered start beginning at 11:00am and a staggered ending at 3:30pm as there were representatives from all levels of the district. It was a very productive afternoon and everyone was at consensus upon conclusion. This will be presented to the larger tech committee as the Foot-print recommendation. The tech committee will go through an exercise in cost and breadth of the Foot-print project on the 16th and send its recommendation to the IT steering committee by Nov 17th.

We also discussed remaining rooms to be foot-printed: Canavan- 10, Heritage – 2, Fenn -2, Garfield – 12, Waite – 10, Northrop -10, Root-3,Claggett -17, MHS -20, Blake -8. TOTAL = 94

Replacement and "catch up" on current rooms must also be taken into consideration as the majority of MHS classrooms (60) will need approximately $1200.00 as each of the current systems expire due to age. So these as will other MS and Elementary school classrooms will need replacement funding and schedule.

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