

PD Tech Committee notes from April 6th, 2011 (page 1)

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In our quest to develop a continuum to determine user technology proficiency, I had both new initiatives and PD tech sub-comms review the Atomic learning product (<http://www.atomiclearning.com/>). The company provides a self-evaluation tool via a rubric and a 21st century skills assessment. It was a solid consensus that the majority of the staff would revolt if they had to attempt the 21st century assessment. The tool did feature instant feedback would provide a prescriptive commentary and training classes to cover incorrect items. The rubric tool was liked, however tallying scores and placing staff into the continuum would be difficult and labor intensive.

Anyone interested in browsing through this tool may use the following user info until April 10 and maybe later?, I've asked the vendor to extend out demo but have not heard back:

Username: Medina1, Password: atomic	URL: http://www.atomiclearning.com/
Medina2, atomic	
Medina3 atomic	
Medina4, atomic	

Other info about Atomic... it is similar to Public School Works and it has an LPDC component in addition it may have connectors that work with Bb. I will be getting more info on this and will pass it along at a later date.

Next Steps: The PD committee has set out on a path to develop informational courses, exercises, and assessments. The team will attempt to develop tutorials that are integrated into Public School Works program. The TECHPD team agreed that using PSW would be more cost effective than trying to engage the atomic learning product). All staff members will need to be proficient in File management (basic computer operation), Content management (being proficient in organizing and developing digital content) and a Pre-Cursor (I can use basic web tools and network tools to gain access to the important STUFF). Passing these three courses will provide staff members with the ability... with practice, to overcome their fear or shortcomings in relationship toward computer operations. We hope that it will level the playing field and will allow level 1 or basic users to start taking advantage of these time saving and educational accelerating devices and apps. It will be used as a guide and pre-requisite for future PD opportunities.

Emphasis for pushing hard on the continuum come from teacher and facilitator feedback acclimated from surveys from previous offering. Problem is teacher placement... even though it has shown marked improvement, staff members are being placed into or choosing courses they don't have the skills to be in... thus slowing down the class for others and causing discontent.

The TechPD team will be reviewing all course syllabuses from the Tech curriculum hours to develop an offering book for future PD offerings. It is our goal to repeat and add to these offering so that tech PD continues to move forward.

Our objectives for future PD classes are:

- Choice is good
- Small classes with users that have a similar computer skills set.
- PD that happens over a shorter period... days or weeks instead of months
- More Building Facilitators running trainings
- four levels in Continuum

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- Rewards for expertise and facilitators, excused from mandatory/contract meetings if your web presence is up to date and advancing
- Users who have not become proficient in above classes cannot attempt any other offerings

As for The New Initiatives com, we looked into the following links and resources:

<http://wp.nmc.org/horizon-k12-2010/> K12 version

<http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2009-Horizon-Report.pdf> Higher ed version

<http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2010-Horizon-Report.pdf> Higher ed version

<http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2011-Horizon-Report.pdf> Higher ed version

Many items of interest in documents, but two things stood out for group in relation toward future:

- E-books
- Integration or cartridges for Blackboard (Bb)

It is the groups' consensus that all new textbooks must have a digital copy and be useable over smart devices/phone/mobile computing. In addition, the book must have a cartridge or template that can be loaded into Bb.

We reviewed the presentations for the remote clicker systems. We know both Turning point and eInstruction are fine solutions. However to dedicate dollars to systems that would potentially never get utilized, because students would prefer using their own smart devices and a web app, the group would recommend to the Hardware/software committee and the tech plan that these receivers be removed from the foot print.

PEEP (Pupil Electronic Enrichment Plan)

We started a discussion ***that we will still need to take to principals*** (middle schools potentially for pilot) that would allow a parent to request that their child would be permitted to either use building resources or a personal computing device to enrich, supplement or reinforce his/her studies during a study hall or similar time during the school day.

Example: my child will be a sixth grader next year and be in two study halls. He would like to try Latin. As a parent, I will assume cost of the course and any administrative/use fees levied by the district. I would need to get this non-credit activity approve Via a PEEP... similar to a DEP and the student would need to have this prior to engaging in the resource use and/or personal computer use at school.

Next steps: Develop PEEP form, amend Classroom cell phone policy to include computers and attain Principal/admin approval for program