

**PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124 BOARD OF EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2008, 7:15 A.M.**

Present: Cindy Gustat, C.G. Pillai

Others Present: Mark Cross, Melissa Bosnich, Sherri Pannier, Amanda Morris, Sally Kamperth, Julie Jenkins

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 a.m. by Cindy Gustat.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Accelerated Reader is now online for staff, students and parents. Students can only take tests at school and parents have been given a password to check their students scores and AR book lists. Common Goal/Teacher-Ease is our new student management system that is now in place. The overall ease of use and reporting capability is superior to what we had last year. The lunch program is included with this and appears to be doing fine. Parents have provided the district with their email address and are capable of receiving messages from the school and looking at their students grades and lunch balances online.

EMAIL/WEB DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Late last Spring the district switched to SOCS for email and web development. Since that time we have had problems with the email client and switched to Google Email early in October. This seems to be running very well and there are 'extra' applications within Google that we will be learning to use over the next few months. We continue to use SOCS for our web pages. The content on the pages will continue to grow as we become more familiar with the program and have time to work on the pages.

PHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM – ALERTNOW

The committee gave the go ahead to upload files to AlertNow, to use as our district phone notification system. With our new student management system, it will be much easier to pull data out and send it to this company. This should be completed and ready to go by the mid-November.

TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM

Sherri informed the committee of the new law requiring internet safety be taught in specific grades. The exact wording has yet to be determined. This will go into effect in either January or Fall 2009. Sherri went to a training called 'I-Safe' and has downloaded some curriculum that can be used. It was also mentioned that the current scope and sequence is good, but needs to be looked at again and aligned with the NET standards. This will be looked this year or after the building transitions next year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sherri expressed concern over the lack of technology professional development in the district. Everyone agreed but feels we need to make this more of an issue after the move to the new buildings because of time and other important items we have going on. Sherri will continue with the after or before school 'mini' workshops as needed.

PARKSIDE

The purchasing of technology equipment....switches, phone system, sound sytem, LCD's, SmartBoards, etc. has yet to be determined. A meeting with the architect and engineer will be setup soon to go over some item purchases that will be installed in the new building. There was a discussion on the number of SmartBoards that should go into the new building and in Washington and Northview. We need to look at the cost of whiteboards vs SmartBoards when installing at the new building and see what teachers in the other buildings would really be interested in one. It was a thought to start with one for Washington and Northview and have the teachers write a little 'mini-grant' proposal as to how they would use it. If chosen, they would have it installed and then teach others within their building so that more could be added.

The Technology Committee adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Committee Chairperson

Superintendent