Technology Committee Updates, 8/21/13

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The ATC Technology Committee has convened 3 meetings this summer. Thus far, the committee has refined and finalized our mission statement (below) and developed a short-term plan to gather feedback and input from stakeholders via three brief questionnaires, one each for staff, parents, and students. Staff was surveyed during July, with a total of 19 (of 22) respondents; and, parents were surveyed during registration, with a total of 202 English respondents and 25 Spanish respondents. A brief summary of those survey results are below.

Our goal is utilize the information gathered thus far and with our next two meetings (September 10, October 1) develop a long range plan for technology use, acquisition, development, and training.

ATC Technology Committee Mission Statement:

The ATC Technology Committee's mission is to develop, recommend, and continuously improve a technology plan for the school which:

- Strengthens students' ability to learn now and throughout their lives;
- Enhances teachers' ability to effectively educate;
- Adheres to Federal, State, and District education requirements;
- Improves communication within the school community; and
- Fits within the school's budget.

To meet these goals, the Technology Committee will:

1. Seek input from teachers, students, administration, and parents.
2. Evaluate current and emerging technologies as they relate to curriculum, instruction, administration, and communication.

3. Prepare and present recommendations to the school's Governing Council and stakeholders.

4. Review the effectiveness of the school's technology plan on a periodic basis.

ATC Staff and Parent Survey Results Overview

In the staff survey results, some key takeaways include identified needs and implementation of classroom tablets/e-textbooks:

Overwhelmingly, staff responses on several questions in the questionnaire indicated desire to have and use better classroom technology equipment. Most notably, document cameras and to a somewhat lesser degree, smart boards were broadly indicated by staff as equipment they definitely would use, feel advances their ability to deliver curriculum, and would seek training to implement. Other equipment needs that were stated have nearly all been addressed or are in the process of being addressed. These include more classroom computers for students, more classroom projectors, more availability of labs, and better performing computers and internet connections.

Staff responses regarding classroom sets of tablet devices and/or e-textbooks were much more mixed. Many responses indicated hesitation over possible logistical and cost factors as well as preferences to continue to have access to traditional books for students. Overall the results point to a need for further research, looking at e-book deployment at other schools and more extensive planning and preparation for such an initiative.

In the parent survey results, indications of communication preferences emerged. 80% of responses in English ranked email communication as their 1st or 2nd preference (3.37/4 avg.) followed by telephone contact (2.35 avg.). Responses in Spanish indicated preference for conferences in person, 70% ranked conferences as their 1st or 2nd preference (2.91 avg.) followed by telephone (2.68). Roughly 75% of English responses indicated presence of a computer at home; roughly 45% of Spanish responses indicated presence of a computer in the home. 4/25 (16%) Spanish respondents indicated no internet access at home; 12/196 (6%) of English respondents indicated no internet access at home.

More in-depth analyses of these results will continue to occur over the next two meetings

Furniture

This summer, ATC made a substantial furniture acquisition from surplus at SFPS General Services:

(Quantities are approximate)
~60 student desks in good condition
~30 tables, including computer tables in excellent condition
5 science lab tables in excellent condition
~90 student chairs in excellent condition (and matching color!)
~10 science lab stools in good condition
2 Student study corrals in good condition
1 couch in excellent condition
1 area rug in fair condition
~6 file cabinets in good to fair condition
~10 Bookcases in fair condition
1 Office desk in excellent condition
2 Office chairs in good condition
1 Butcher paper roll rack with paper (and an additional 4–5 rolls of paper spare)
~6 classroom network poles (~$500/ea.)