School Board Meeting: **August 9, 2011**

Subject: Review the District Technology Goals

Presenter: **Josh Swanson**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report

DESCRIPTION:
There were two technology integration goals adopted by the district in 2008.

1. Increase the number of teachers who integrate technology to create authentic learning experiences that enhance existing curriculum or create new curriculum.

2. Increase the number of staff and students who utilize collaborative technologies that enhance existing curriculum or create new curriculum.

There has been no formal review of the goals by the board since adopting them in 2008. The goals were to be completed in 2010, but since they were not reviewed or updated, work has continued through the 2010-11 school year.

Technology Integration Goal #1 Results
Almost 80% of our teachers reported using technology as a learning tool on a weekly or daily basis in May, 2011. Some examples of how tools are used to support learning are: direct instruction or presentation, student discovery and research, student collaboration, skills practice, assessment, communication, and product creation. This is up from 50% daily or weekly use reported in May, 2010.

An array of exemplary projects have been implemented across the district from 2008 through 2011. Many of these projects serve as examples for not only Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Staff, but for schools around the state. To date, we have over 85 formally supported projects through programs like Tech Champions, Exemplary Grants, and Technology/SPED Requests for Proposals (RFP's). Numerous other exemplary uses are evident in classrooms that are not part of these formal programs. Staff have shared their knowledge and skills each year at Teach 2.0, the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose all-teacher professional development day, through building and district in-service, informally in teams and with grade levels, through the Tech Tuesday program, and at conferences around the state.

Technology Integration Goal #2 Results
The availability and use of collaborative technologies has increased continuously since the goals were adopted by the board in 2008. Staff self-report an increased use of collaborative technologies that support learning, but the real proof is in the data that is collected by the tools themselves. Over 14,000 collaborative documents have been created on Google Docs and each document averages over 4 collaborators. Over 1200

staff and students have created documents and we average 250-350 logins to Google Docs per day including weekends. Over 250 Google Sites now exist, our Moodle Sites have doubled since 2008, and in excess of 150 blogs/wikis are hosted on our Wordpress server. This does not take into account other collaborative technologies being used that are difficult to track.

Next Steps:
During the spring of 2011 a team was created to participate in a Technology Leadership Cohort hosted by the Consortium of School Networks (COSN) and facilitated by TIES staff. The team consists of the Superintendent, Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Technology, an Elementary Principal, a Secondary Principal, Technology Integration Specialist/Teacher, and Communications Coordinator. The cohort is examining technology leadership in schools through 5 themes:

- Strengthen District Leadership and Communications
- Raise the Bar with 21st Century Skills
- Transform Pedagogy with Compelling Learning Environments
- Support Professional Development and Communities of Practice
- Create Balanced Assessments

The team has been learning about the themes and analyzing how ideas could clarify, inform, and improve our practice as we support student learning.   This Technology Leadership Team has been asked to think about the District's technology integration goals as part of the cohort experience. The team feels strongly that time should be spent to craft a thoughtful recommendation for future technology integration goals that align with our Mission, Core Values, and District Key Results.

To accomplish this task, the team has begun to define a process that includes a needs assessment, analysis of data collected, significant stakeholder input, a review of promising practices, and finally a recommendation. This process would take place throughout the 2011-12 school year.

To support this work and keep us moving forward, the Technology Leadership Team would like to propose making slight modifications to the 2008-10 goals that would keep them relevant for the 2011-12 school year. The group intends to return in the spring of 2012 with a recommendation for significantly updated Technology Integration Goals.

Technology Integration Goal #1 Proposed Revisions for 2011-12
Curriculum Mapping the Technology k-12 scope and sequence has been removed as a measure. This may reappear as part of a future recommendation, but it may take a different shape with a greater focus on 21st century learning or skills. The group suggests not investing resources on this effort until greater clarity exists following the needs assessment. The number of strategies have been reduced, but promote a focus of efforts. An emphasis is placed on multifaceted professional development, inclusion of 21st Century skills, and assessment of instruction design and delivery.

Technology Integration Goal #2 Proposed Revisions for 2011-12
Collaboration tools that are being measured have been expanded past Moodle, reflecting changes in technology and significantly increased use. The targets are set to continue to push staff yet provide a reasonable goal, considering the fast growth of the Google App tools.

During the 2011-12 school year, emphasis will be placed on using technology to support 21st Century Skills represented by the 4C's: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. The modified goals will allow for a transition year while maintaining focus as the BHM Staff continues to leverage the benefits technology has on learning and preparing students for a successful future in a changing world.

ATTACHMENT(S):

    2008-10 Technology Goal #1 Results
    2008-10 Technology Goal #2 Results
    2011-12 Proposed Modifications for Technology Goal #1
    2011-12 Proposed Modifications for Technology Goal #2