

Background

- Site visit conducted on October 23rd
- Task Force members present: Penni Cyr, Keven Denton, Christopher Campbell, Spencer Barzee
- SDE Staff present: Matt McCarter, Troy Wheeler
- Structure of site visit:
 - Mt Ararat HS / MS (interviews with Technology Mentor, students, school staff & MLTI staff)
 - Freeport MS (classroom observations, interviews with teachers, principal, students & tech support)
 - Lunch with MLTI staff- interviews continued
 - Yarmouth HS (school tour, interviews with students, principal, tech support & teachers)
 - Extended dialogue with MLTI Technology Mentors and Jeff Mao



STUDENTS COME FIRST



Maine Learning Technology Initiative Goals

- Establish equity (level the playing field of access to information)
- Integrate with Maine's learning results
- Sustainability / avoiding obsolescence
- Increase support for teacher preparation and ongoing professional development
- Foster economic development
- Formalize a learner-centric system of instruction



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Spencer Barzee

- Teachers need to have a digital presence:
 - Teacher websites-Yarmouthschools.org-14 different websites
 - Wiki, Moodle, Google Docs, Google Voice, Quizlet,—more than just PowerPoint and email
 - *“I am an art teacher and it has drastically changed my teaching.”*—Yarmouth High School
 - Increasing digital presence now will make the transition easier
- Professional development for teachers:
 - Has to be more than IT responsibility
 - Multiple formats for delivery
- Teachers are rising to the challenge:
 - *“teachers are doing things that I never thought they would do in their wildest dreams”*
 - *“teachers don’t have to know everything about technology to be effective”*
- Technology increases accessibility for teachers and students
 - *“laptops are the catalyst for collaboration”*
- A focus on digital citizenship will result in less digital mischief



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Keven Denton

- One throat to choke. All RFP's for one to one (connectivity, tech support, PD, device ability, etc...) should be included in a single RFP. This way if anything goes wrong there is no finger pointing. The RFP should be for a all inclusive service.
- Professional Development must be offered on different levels
 - Classroom implementation
 - Administration implementation
 - Technology support
 - PD needs to be ongoing- you can never have enough PD.
- Collaborative communication- Administrator, teachers and tech leads must be on the same page for one to one to be successful
- Define your own success, or someone else will do it for you. Don't define success goal as things you can't control.
- It critical to implement devices throughout an entire school, not by individual grade levels
- All staff working with students need a device- Title 1 Coordinators, Librarians, technicians, student teachers



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Penny Cyr

- Certified Technology Integrators or Teacher Leaders are crucial part of a successful program
- Librarians are deeply in the digital citizenship space...crucial to include them in the one-to-one along with other ancillary teachers as they all work with kids
- Parents are an important piece of the system; we must work with them to make the initiative successful
- Good idea to set “screen time” so kids are not on computers all the time
- Professional Development is driven by what teachers ask for...not a one size fits all from the state. Also, one school discussed having a weekly designated PD time with “Late Start Wednesdays”
- Technology is a catalyst for more collaboration between teachers in schools and with teachers in other schools



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SDE Staff Observations

- Open school filters up so kids don't spend all day trying to hack around them (teachers let students check facebook and email at the beginning of class for a minute or two then it's: "lids down eyes up").
- Deploy to 1/3 of all schools not 1/3 of students in 100% of high schools otherwise teacher end up with mixed classes of haves and have not's and the technology doesn't get used for reasons of equity within a given room.
- Power and batteries are a non-issue if you let students take them home even in older buildings. A small supply of spares in a charging center is adequate.
- Utilize student resources for IT support (iTeam); this severs as a learning opportunity and bolsters building level tech support.
- Building leaders set expectations of use with teaching staff. This fosters adoption and breaks down apprehension (one principal recounted that his teachers are required to maintain a website with course work, syllabus etc...).



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