

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 7:00 P.M.

(Visit our website at www.masd.info)

Mr. Karl Wimmer
Chairperson

Mr. Craig Owens
Administrative Representative

I. WELCOME

September 9, 2010 Technology Committee meeting began at 7:00 PM

II. ATTENDANCE

Board members present included Karl Wimmer and Mary Homan

Administrators present included Craig Owens and Mike Ognosky

I. OLD BUSINESS

- **Security Camera Project Update:** Mr. Owens took those present on a tour of the camera systems that are now in place in all three school buildings in the District. Through the utilization of the computer software he showed all of the live shots available with each of the cameras in all of the buildings and also took the group through the process of tape reviewing by going back a week and showing that tape.
- **Database Integration Project Update:** All the integration of our current databases: MMS student information database, cafeteria database, Versatrans transportation database, Library database and Special Education software are now fully integrated. When a new student arrives for registration and is placed in the MMS database that information is transmitted across the software and entered in all of the other databases as well. Also, the system has been updated and immediately assigns the required passwords and permissions to the new students upon registration and entry into the software. Mr. Owens shared with those present a document entitled "How SIF Works" that explains this process. Mr. Ognosky will get a copy of that document to all board members. SIF is the software that enables those databases to "talk" to each other.
- **VersaTrans Project Update:** The update of all of the information in the transportation software continues to be an ongoing process. There are still approximately 400 families that have not updated their current "RR" addresses to their new "911" address. The transportation software requires the accurate 911 address in order to locate the student on the appropriate map. Mr. Owens office has distributed information cards this week to all high school students who have yet to provide updated information with the request to have them returned next week. He will also do the same with elementary students. There will also be a sign up table at the "Meet the Teachers Nights" as well where parents can update their information.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- **Review Status of Summer Projects:** Mr. Owens reviewed all of the summer projects that were undertaken by his department:
 - ✓ Additional storage area network was installed as well as the appropriate software for the maintenance of that storage area network. In this process, we are able to disable and remove smaller physical storage areas and replace them with larger, more efficient ones. This continues to enlarge our current physical storage area as well as our virtual storage area to an amount required for the volume of data currently in our system. This will also improve the stability of the network and save electricity cost.
 - ✓ Consolidation of smaller print servers into a larger print server which, again, will improve both the stability of the network and efficiency of the network.
 - ✓ We eliminated many of our color laser printers in the school buildings and replaced them with high speed black and white laser printers which are much more efficient and cost effective. There is now only one dedicated color printer in each building to handle color print jobs.

- ✓ Purchase and implementation of two switches – one for each elementary school that allowed the Tech Department to separate the network traffic flow and speed up the connectivity of the network in the elementary schools.
- ✓ Deployment of 140 new desktops and 20 new laptops throughout the district equipped with Windows 7.0.
- ✓ Installation of 40 SMART Boards in the elementary schools – one in each elementary classroom.

- **Disaster Recovery Project Consideration:** Mr. Owens explained that the one glaring need that still exists in the District is a disaster recovery plan in case of emergency situations. Over the past few months, the Technology Department has reviewed a number of different solutions to this concern and Mr. Owens asked if he could have time at a future meeting of the board to address the concern and present a solution. He is currently not comfortable that all applications could be restored in a timely and efficient fashion should something take down our network without warning. He also can't do timely and complete backups with the resources available to him at this time. He feels there are solutions out there that will address both concerns. After discussion, Mr. Ognosky suggested that time be provided at the October, 2010 work session to allow Mr. Owens to address this concern with the entire board and to present a solution for consideration. All present concurred that the timeframe proposed was enough time to develop such a plan and this will be a discussion item at the October work session.

III. OPEN FORUM – The following items were discussed during the Open Forum segment of the meeting:

- **“One Call Now”:** Mr. Owens explained that the District is about to implement a district wide calling system that can be utilized by the administration in communicating important information to the parents in the District. Weather cancellations and delays, announcement of evening programs, etc. can be sent to a selected group of parents, or all parents if required, in just a few minutes through this automated system. He will review the process with the administrative team at our next weekly administration meeting and then “test” messages will be developed and sent out to the parents.
- **Choconut Valley Interior Classroom Walls:** One of the concerns that Mr. Owens brought to the attention of those present was the need for more electricity in the rooms at Choconut Valley. One of the problems encountered is the portable, or moveable, walls and the fact that they can not be utilized for electrical outlets, etc. As the need for technology grows in each classroom this has become an obstacle. It may be time to consider the placement of permanent walls in the classrooms at Choconut Valley.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Mike Ognosky