

Technology Meeting 03/12/07 Minutes

Attendees: Carlin McCoy, Mike Vandellos, David Applebaum, Eileen Dougherty, Tony Liu

This was the Dimension in Technology's 3rd Meeting.

We discussed the groups "Vision". It is worthwhile to spend some time on this Vision Statement as it should be used to validate anything our group does. Here is a first take:

"To promote and facilitate the use of technology that can easily be used by students, teachers and parents to help in the educational process."

We discussed the budget, which currently has \$1,000 allocated to this program area. There was a discussion of either buying many lower cost items, for example Encarta for each PC, or buying one or more larger cost items, for example a projector.

We estimated that there were about 50 PCs which means our per PC budget is roughly \$20.

Briefly discussed that Encarta includes both the standard encyclopedia, a "Kids" version that is designed for use by age 7-12, as well as Web Links to over 29,000 Web sites, pre-selected by Encarta editors for relevant and age-appropriate research material. (Yes that last part is straight from the MS Encarta web site ☺).

We discussed reaching out to Joseph McAlister the Technology/Network Administrator to see if there were technology needs at that level, to get a inventory of equipment and software and perhaps more detail as to the PC, Server and Network configurations.

There was a discussion of the proposed survey. We will do some more research and work via email to come up with a final survey.

We decided that each of us would try to work with at least one of our children's teachers with the following proposed tasks:

- a) Determine the upcoming curriculum.
- b) Research and present ways that technology can be used to help the teachers and students with the specific curriculum.
- c) As part of the dialog to do an informal and perhaps partial survey if it is appropriate. Questions to come either from the current proposed survey or the final survey we will develop.
- d) Current grade assignments:
 - i) David 1st & 2nd combined
 - ii) Mike & Carlin 1st & 2nd
 - iii) Eileen 4th
 - iv) Tony 5th

Other tasks:

- David to research other surveys, then to work with the group via email to finalize the survey as well as the distribution mechanism.
- Mike to research software costs for Encarta.
- Mike to reach out to Joseph McAlister.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4/12/07 at 7:00pm in the Library.