

## DPAC Executive Committee Report

Committee: Technology Advisory	Date: Sept. 25, 2006
Prepared by: Jay Brown	
Outstanding Action from report / minutes dated _____	
Current Priorities requiring DPAC Action, include deadlines and monetary consideration:  Membership to review K-8 Learning With Technology Plan (draft) and respond with input. District staff are available to present at GM, if desired.	

### Other key points to report:

The Technology Advisory Committee has been made an official advisory committee to the office of the Superintendent. A newly created IT Committee consisting of district staff will take on general problem solving of IT issues. The Advisory Committee is now more focused on mid to long term policy.

### Summer Work

For the first time, the IT dept has completed all upgrade work before the start of the school year. 14 elementary schools had their labs updated as a result of decisions made by the Committee last year. Wireless networks have been implemented at Riverside and Centennial. 350 laptops were re-imaged in preparation for the expansion of the One-To-One program.

### BCeSIS

There are issues with the widespread implementation of the system starting with the service provider not keeping pace with demand on the system. The vendor is working to address them. Other serious problems impact secondary schools with graduation requirements and timetables.

Bill 33 compliance has been very problematic thanks to late-breaking reporting requirements from the ministry and compounded by the need to extract data from the old system and the new BCeSIS system. The deadline for compliance data is Sept 29, 2006 with the latest requirements made known on Sept 22.

### IT Department Restructuring

The restructuring of the IT department is nearly complete. Supervisors and other personnel now grouped by specific technologies allowing them to better support their respective areas.

A Calgary School Board advisor has been retained to advise SD43 on technology integration. Their experience with technology in their large district will help SD43 staff anticipate issues. A report on SD43 technology integration is due in draft form before Christmas. It is expected Advisory Committee members will be part of the process including parent representatives.

### Distributed Learning

SD43 is improving what it offers by developing Coquitlam Online. 100's of our students are going to other districts, etc. for distance learning opportunities. The difference with the SD43 approach is emphasis on periodic face-to-face support to assure success. We are very well positioned with excellent compliance with provincial education requirements (teachers with Masters in Distributed Learning) and our Curriculum Development Dept is the best in BC.

The goal of Distributed Learning is to make advanced academic courses available to students in addition to their regular course load. These courses typically have low enrollment making it difficult to offer them.

### **1-1 Program Expansion**

The 1-1 Writing program now has placed 350 laptops into students' hands and provides a new model for developing writing skills. Elementary schools chosen tend to be those with perceived at-risk students who have less opportunity. The effect of the program is expected to be more pronounced with this group. The middle schools chosen are those which the selected elementary schools feed into. This is in line with the Advisory Committee's previously stated goals of equalising opportunities across the district.

### **SharePoint Adoption**

Since the IT Dept has facilitated the creation of SharePoint sites, there are now over 7,500 subsites associated with schools. This is creating unprecedented opportunity for teachers and administrators to share information with parents. It is a precursor to the new Learning Portal in development.

PACs may be granted access (talk to school administration) and the username & password will be the same as the district email.

### **Additional information provided by Claude Hrycaiko**

#### **my43**

- Solutions IT has completed the work to redevelop Scholaris onto Sharepoint 2007
- We should have a copy of the Scholaris 2007 software setup by early October so that we can experiment and prepare for launching the system
- We have all the hardware infrastructure in place - the team is working through the details to setup the software environment
- We have engaged our financial / HR systems vendor on a research project to determine how best to fold access to their software into my43 (eg, CADS, AMS, Job Shopping, Reports, eBusiness stuff, etc.)
- Habanero is working on a draft set of detailed tasks that each user type (teacher, student, support, executive, etc.) will be able to perform within the system - we will be calling meetings to walk folks through these tasks with the aim of determining what pieces of Scholars and Sharepoint are required to fulfill the needs of the task and where the user might look for these pieces within my43. This will give us a detailed understanding of the profiles we need for each user type. These meetings should begin early in October

Also parents are encouraged to go to:

**"AberdeenGroup (<http://www.aberdeen.com/>) which predicts that within the next 12-18 months, SharePoint is aiming to be a core part of over 90% of Portal initiatives worldwide"**

For further information about this exciting new technology!