

MINUTES
INDIANA NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL NETWORK
MEETING
Thursday, September 11, 2008
Decatur Central High School
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Marvin Bailey, Bob Bell, Ruth Blankenbaker, Janet Boyle, Catherine Brown, Liz Bryan, Paul Buck, Deb Carter, Doug Cole, Monica Cougan, Tasia Cowan, Todd Cummins, Jordan Cundiff, Scott DeFreese, Laura Dodd, Jennifer Drake, David Dresslar, Barbara Gillenwaters, Karen Gould, Randy Gratz, Lauren Howard, Debra Howe, Bill Jensen, Jed Jerrels, Carla Johnson, Scott Kern, Deborah Leser, Adam Lowe, Kathy Luessow, Christine Marson, Mike McDowell, Mark Morrison, Steve Parker, Chad Phillips, Joe Prada, Rod Rathge, Mary Redman, Michael Reed, Suellen Reed, Dan Ronk, Theresa Shafer, Matt Shockley, Kay Sloan, Josh Smith, Mark C. Smith, Steve Stephanoff, Don Stinson, Nancy Sutton, Rip Taggart, Alan Veach, Tom Wachnicki, Bill Walker, Ellen Welk, Todd Whitlock, Dave Wietbrock, Faye Williams-Robbins, Trisha Wlodarczyk

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To obtain an understanding of the barriers, forward movement and partners' perspective in pursuing high school redesign and the implementation of New Technology High School in Indiana and to assist other school communities who have expressed an interest in moving forward with this initiative.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: David Dresslar greeted all present and recognized the tremendous involvement of everyone in the work of school redesign. He reminded everyone that we are a network that can benefit from the same challenges, solutions and relationships. Superintendent Don Stinson's vision, the support of the Decatur community and the beauty of the architectural design of the new school were acknowledged.

Stinson welcomed all to the new Decatur Central High School facility that will house the New Tech School of IDEAS and other small schools and asked that we excuse the dust. They are proud of the redesign where learning comes alive and is student focused. High school students are taking classes at IUPUI, Vincennes and the University of Indianapolis. Parents are also learning how to take advantage of learning. In reviewing our data, we noted a dramatic improvement in discipline. Last year this time (2007-08), we had 35 fights; this year (2008-09) we have only had two (2). We are very proud of our staff! They made it happen! Welcome, again!

Dr. Suellen Reed, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said, "The dust is just great. Thank you for the innovations that you have brought to the state. Working together as a network makes the difference."

To great applause, Dresslar reminded Dr. Reed that the kindergarteners who were in school when she started working are now seniors. All warmly acknowledged that Dr. Reed will be missed.

There has been much progress in the New Tech movement. Many people are interested in the future, scaling-up and professional development. The next meeting will be on November 17 and a part of the CELL Fall Conference. Both the New Tech Network and Early College Network meetings will take place in the afternoon of Day 1, Nov. 17, 2008. Kati Haycock, The Education Trust, and Chad Wick, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, are two of the keynote speakers, who will set a national and international stage, regarding leadership, policy and other models. Lauren Howard informed network members that all information has been posted on the website <http://cell.uindy.edu/indianasfuture2008> and that Early Bird Registration fees, through October 27, are \$50 for a group of 3 and \$75 single.

Trisha Wlodarczyk was introduced as the newest “CELL-mate” having been stolen from the DOE. Her responsibilities include the high school network.

BRINGING NEW TECH 21st CENTURY HIGH SCHOOLS TO SCALE IN INDIANA:

According to Mark Morrison, the first New Technology High School was started in 1992 when the Napa community demanded a school in which students would learn the skills necessary to succeed in the New Economy. Local business leaders were frustrated with the lack of skilled local employees unprepared for jobs in a technologically advanced marketplace. Out of frustration came inspiration, and New Technology High School was born. Today (2008) we have over 300 teachers and 14,000 students connected to the Learning System portal (PeBL). Indiana has demonstrated the most interest with Texas and Louisiana following.

Indiana New Tech Progress Report on Scaling-up: emerging strategy-Invasion of the Hoosiers

- Center Grove
- Shelbyville
- North Davies
- Madison County, South Bend
- North East Indiana

All New Tech schools have started strong. With 8 coaches, the New Tech Foundation can handle 3-5 sites a year. We are not set – up to accommodate district growth at 5+ a year. It is important to prepare the network to be self – sufficient.

Strategy: We need training sites to develop new and existing schools and demonstration sites to enable others to “catch the vision.” Sites should include urban, rural, suburban, and middle school design. The 21st Century Training sites could be schools or institutions of higher learning. In order to avoid taking the best teachers out of schools, staff must co-locate at a New Tech School, continuing their expertise as a practitioner.

Partners are the fuel that will make it work...a driving force! Courageous school corporations may have great vision, but they need support to do the blocking. To stimulate economic development, schools and districts need local, state and regional partners all working together to support growth of 21st Century schools. The New Technology Foundation is currently preparing geographic site specifications.

3 Dimensions of Scaling:

- Exploration/Community Development
- Professional Development
- Learning System Portal Costs

Responsibilities

- Host study/executive tours
- Teacher shadowing; principal residency; training, Meeting of the Minds
- At least one (1) 21st Century Trainer site

New Tech Foundation Certification for 21st Century Schools

- School Success/Benchmark Rubric – fundamental principles and practices for 21st Century learning. [See handout; Path to Certification.]
- Teachers develop engaging stem – based PBL lessons

In 1992, NT started with lotus notes which captured the flow of the NT work. Today we have a web-based portal environment: PeBL (Pronounced: “pebble”). Knowledge Works is improving the system this weekend. There is strong interest in school licenses for PeBL.

What’s Next?

- PeBL Platform – performance, transitions, enhancements
- 21st Century Teacher training and 21st Century School Certification
- Develop training sites
- CELL continues to identify, engage, and organize interested partners across the state
- Continued development of Indiana Network capacity

UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIANA NEW TECH SCHOOLS [Including summer training, Meeting of the Minds, and 2008-09 Coaching]:

Coach Mike McDowell applauded the work of the Indiana New Tech Network and their incredible journey. How do you support the first six (6) schools and the new schools coming on Board? The Indiana School Success Rubric is the driving force. Student achievement looks at content and 21st Century skills. Regarding curriculum, schools are going wall-to-wall with PBL in all schools. Technology Use-The PeBL platform provides the most effective ways to use technology in the classroom. School culture is foundational and important in Year 1. Professional culture is similar to what we want to see modeled in the classroom, i.e., group norms, collaboration, and decision-making protocols. Partnership development is evident in participation in site-based school governing and school mentoring.

Network Capacity Development

- Established Tier 1 Advocates for work with Meeting of the Minds 2007; Largest Indiana Teach the Trainer Certification
- Six (6) Teacher Facilitators at All Schools Conference; Four (4) Teacher Facilitators at Meeting of the Minds; Administrator Facilitators for National Leadership Summit
- Two (2) Administrator Co- Facilitators at New School Conference NTK (Need To Know)
- Two (2) Teacher Co-Facilitators at CELL Conference, Middle School Development-Summer Rochester
- Tour Development (Tier 1-2); Implementation of School Success Rubric process toward school certification
- Superintendent PBL Project, Scope and Sequence

School Capacity Game Plan

- Encourage teacher certification; encourage capacity building, active school success rubric reflection
- Institute leadership networking

NEW TECH PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY REPORT: This is a new initiative, and CELL is organizing a committee to better understand the professional learning needs of the network. A sign-up sheet will be distributed and we would like one representative from each school for the committee and others that are interested. The PLC could include trainings or meetings via the web where we can put ideas together in order to support schools across the state. A PLC plan will come out of the committee work.

NEW TECH HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: The Higher Education Committee will have its own specific group that will focus on the needs of schools, where they are on the continuum and the points listed previously by Mike McDowell. Teacher advocates are asked to think about where higher education can help the most. A sign-up sheet is coming around and a representative from each school is requested.

EVALUATION REPORT: The Evaluation Report is funded by the National Governor's Association (NGA). The Center of Urban and Multicultural Education (CUME) and ROCKMAN ET AL are collaborating on stakeholder perceptions. Trisha Wlodarczyk will lead these efforts. Reports will be vetted with each school. A report will be forwarded to the NGA in mid-October. We appreciate the co-operation of Tier 1 schools. It is important that we show data and results. We will discuss in more detail later.

POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

Congratulations to Dr Reed for moving the "waivers" issue forward! Currently schools must appropriate \$150,000 to support technology development (PeBL). In many instances this serves as a barrier to moving forward. We are proposing a one-time "right-to-use" fee (license) to be included in Dr. Reed's budget for the upcoming year. The goal is to fund through the state legislature by 2009. There appears to be much support state-wide.

Currently the servers are located at a site in St. Louis at a fee of \$20,000. We are proposing the relocation of servers on the Indiana State Network. This would represent a significant cost savings. We have identified a company that would agree to service and maintain the servers. Our good friend, Dr. Reed, has submitted a letter of support.

With the advent of ultra portable computers, we are reviewing classroom technology. Dell and Intel are in the market. If we consider a \$300-500 computer amortized over 4 years, this would result in an approximate rental cost of \$140 per year. We are talking with the state about replacing textbooks with computers; just as parents now pay textbook rental costs. Whether the Indiana Code will look at computers as textbooks is under review. It may be necessary to change the Indiana Code. Everyone is asked to forward, to Marvin Bailey, any items that need to be changed to support New Tech.

We were successful in achieving deregulation of certain items. For information regarding the process for ensuring school deregulation, contact Jeff Zaring, DOE, at jzaring@doe.in.gov or 232-6665 . Make sure that the School Improvement Plan (SIP) includes the concept of New Tech. A concern had previously been raised regarding New Tech identified as a separate school and problems with IHSAA. In our conversations, if the NT school is considered a "magnet school," it can be identified separately but does not have to have an athletic program. This,

however, is a local decision. For further information, contact Gary Wallyn, DOE, gwallyn@doe.in.gov or 232-9060.

To ensure that the next Superintendent of Public Instruction is active and informed, both candidates will visit New Tech schools. The republican candidate will visit Rochester shortly; the democratic candidate has already visited a NT school.

WOODROW WILSON FELOWSHIP PROGRAM AT UINDY: Jennifer Drake, an associate professor of English at UIndy, was introduced as the new director of the university's Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellowship Program. The Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellowship at UIndy leads to a Master of Arts in Teaching degree that will prepare individuals to become a teacher at the middle and high school levels in mathematics, chemistry and life science. Since the curriculum is constructed using a PBL lesson design, this program serves as a natural partner with New Tech Schools. Qualified teachers will be available for hire in the fall of 2010 with initial placements in Decatur, Wayne and Indianapolis Public Schools. Four Indiana universities are participating in the launch of this program through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation: Ball State, Purdue, IUPUI and UIndy.

NEW TECH STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: Tom Wachnicki raised awareness of students as significant change agents. When opening school, the first project challenged students to create rules for the school. This required students to collaborate and build consensus resulting in a vehicle for "Student Voice." The New Tech School of IDEAS would like to host a Leadership Summit at Decatur Central for students of other NT schools. The goal is to provide a cohort of students to help support new schools. This could be transformational for the Network. Consideration might also be given to establishing a tier during the All Schools Conference.

The meeting adjourned with a tour of the new facility housing Decatur New Tech School of IDEAS.