

Technology in OST

January 20, 2011

9:30am-11:30am

Meeting Minutes

Introduction

Announcements

- Nancy Peter - PSAYDN – ELO conference in March:
http://promising_practices_elo.center-school.org/
- Rhonda Cohen - JEVS provides site-based SAT and financial aid workshops – registration now open. Email: Rhonda.Cohen@jevs.org
- Carol Austin - International Society for Technology in Education – June conference in Philly. Email: caustin@pyninc.org.
- Naomi Faszczuk – LSH-BDVP; Register for Feb 16 domestic violence prevention training; is also looking for retreat location in C. City Philly; also offers support groups for teens and adult women. Contact: nfaszczuk@lutheransettlement.org, 215.426.8610, x279.
- Betsy Payne – now accepting nominations for Woman in Natural Sciences (WINS) program at Academy of Natural Sciences – low-income 8th and 9th grade public schools girls from single family homes. Contact: www.ansp.org, payne@ansp.org.
- Alicia Dorsey – Jumping Jems and Family Advocate (?). Free books/clothes available for youth to age 12; Campaign for Working Families offers free tax prep, sells savings bonds for inheritance: www.phillyfreetaxes.org.
- John Price – Check out Online OST PD calendar to post and/or access multiple area trainings, offered by dozens of agencies: www.PhillyOSTPD.org.
- Deepa Vasudevan – New website raises awareness about nonprofit career choices for youth; also looking for new writers. Contact: www.OnlyUp.org.

Panelists

1. Aleaa Slappy

Education Programs Manager, The Enterprise Center CDC

ASlappy@theenterprisecentercdc.org

Background information on the Center (46th and Market). Help minority business owners, help business owners accelerate. Two recent programs: group of students involved in YES (Youth + Entrepreneurship = Success) program, and Teen Council. Social media is a large part of both components. Positive tool used to keep the line of communication open – look for bizarre or concerning Facebook posts – use these as a way to open up dialogue with youth. Surprisingly, youth have not blocked FB pages, many seem to appreciate the extra attention. Communicating via technology has been a positive addition to the programs, even in communicating with parents. As a student in the YES

program (Cameron Taylor) started a great blog: “A Gentleman’s Approach” teaching other young men etiquette.

2. Todd Matte

Multimedia Arts Specialist, EducationWorks

TMatte@EducationWorks.org

Background on EducationWorks – PBL, Summer Programs, afterschool. Started as an AmeriCorps member, doing work on MACbook with youth. Consumer-based products are becoming cheaper and easier to use. Takes laptops to schools and works with youth – making short films and creative computer based projects. New program – *Picture me Healthy* – a photography and health program. Teaching kids about media – media literacy, discussing advertisements vs. information, what is seen in the media and where / if youth are represented. Help students look more critically at how they are influenced by television. Youth are becoming more and more tech savvy. Wii’s were bought for the sites but didn’t initially work...developed *Wii Read* – set the Wii up in the corner of the room where two students play while the rest of the room reads – those most engaged in the book can play Wii next. Helps with self-control and also students are more engaged in reading (some students actually are so engaged they don’t want to play the Wii!)

3. Carol Austin

VP Strategic Initiatives, Philadelphia Youth Network

CAustin@pyninc.org

Background on PYN. High school age 14-21 experiential learning. Developing youth to be able to “thrive in a world economy.” How do you bring the world to the kids and the kids to the world? (See Global Education Technology Resources sheet). Some thrive in social media some do not. Quote from CEO of Google “there was 5 Exabyte of information created between the dawn of civilization and 2003. That same amount of information is now created every two days.” We need to figure out how to best use technology! The power of social media is undeniable- Tunisian uprising executed almost entirely with social media. Flash mob example – why not use this gathering potential for good: “flash mob to clean a park.” 21st Century skills – how to prepare young people to engage with the world. Media is bringing people, stories and news together. Skype bringing people together -- youth can meet and “get to know” youth in other countries – allows them to see different perspectives and people in the world. Look at an issue that you are attacking locally and see what others are doing about it globally. Environmental issues can be discussed and worked on globally through technology; a relationship between a school in Alaska and a school in Kenya was created and enhanced through media networks.

Group Discussion

Comment: Up until now, the only technology we've used is PowerPoint or our own research. We don't always have access to technology, or we use whatever is available. In a new space we have been able to integrate technology into the curriculum. What obstacles have you seen in trying to integrate technology? What are the solutions? How can you get something to go viral?

Todd— Some people are fearful of social media – funders, board – what if the students say something inappropriate. Yet, there is a weird line that is opened up when you engage with youth online (social media). Making something viral – recycling project used over summer went beyond what the high school . Grass roots marketing helps, but it is a challenge to get the word out. Part of it is just luck.

Aleaa—Consider your online marketing plan; how do you get the word out about what you are doing?

Comment: Twitter is a great tool as part of social media

Todd—Film festival at end of school year with different groups of students from all over the city – use some of the pre social networking tools to bring people together and then used media to maintain and grow those contacts.

Aleaa –Social media pushback will always be there.

Comment: Nicole, Marketing company using Social media for four years. Blended learning getting technology into the classrooms. We have to beware of information vs. data. Not everything is a fact. Children grasp more with interactive teaching.

Comment: Talking more about resistance - images of children online is a big issue. What do we say to that? There is a lot of ignorance –“some hacker might come and steal the child's image.”

Todd— All students and parents needs to sign off on a release. Facilitators know not to use last names and / or use nicknames. Need to work towards fighting ignorance.

Comment: One of the challenges for our afterschool program is restrictions on sites that can be viewed. We have a media room and a technology program but can get access to educational sites.

Todd—Many afterschool programs do not even access to computer, let alone the web. Labs and libraries are locked and protected for afterschool. When you make a cool product, make sure the people in power get to see / experience it! Typically they are impressed.

Comment: Because of so many restrictions, our school worked on regulating the restrictions so we could incorporate media with student curriculum. We had to get our funders and our board to understand.

A wireless card works for individual projects.

Carol—Internet safety: you have to mitigate your risks. Know what the true risks are and put safety measures in place. Be realistic, there are risks with walking down the street.

Aleaa— Who are you on the web vs. who you are in person. It's important to remember your roles.

Breakout discussion highlights:

Carol's group—Tracking alumni has always been difficult but this has become a much more reasonable task with technology.

Todd's group—Trying to get directors on board with using social media, how to protect kids but still get work out there. Kindles may actually be a good thing –don't want to over-saturate youth but they have their "toy" and are reading. Flip cams, computers getting cheaper. Flipcams have a two-for-one program for non profits. Go to:

www.flipcam.com.

Aleaa's group—Should an organization have just a professional page or a less formal page for the kids? Staff members friending kids online. Text messaging—group parents in one category, can text all parents at once – a great way to keep in communication.