

NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE SW WASHINGTON DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORS

February 6, 2008

at

Educational Service District 112 (Klickitat and Skamania Rooms)

10:30 – 11:00

State Update on Educational Technology

Presented by Dennis Small, Program Director of Educational Technology, OSPI

Dennis used the K-20 to share information about educational technology from the state and federal perspective.

◆ Legislative Session

The state has a budget deficit of between \$5.5 and 6 billion, and Education accounts for approximately half of the budget. The Governor's budget was published in December. The Senate's budget is expected to be released in mid to late March, and the House's budget should be released in mid to late April. The Governor's budget does not include the provision for the regional Educational Technology Support Centers, nor does it provide for any follow-up work to be done on the technology standards.

◆ Funding Outlook

The Basic Ed Task Force is recommending \$200 per student (new money) per year for technology, under NERC. OSPI is tracking this to see where it goes with the legislature.

SB5410 is the bill for online learning. It charges the Digital Learning Commons with assuring quality in student courses that are taken across the state. The current cost model of \$6 per student would change, and the bill would not allow the DLC to charge.

◆ Reminders

E-Rate – The deadline for filing form 471 is Feb. 12. Try to beat the last 4-day rush so you hear back from them sooner.

Technology Inventory – The deadline for this is March 31. The inventory includes some new questions. Don't forget that the inventory requires the data for technology integration (teachers) and technology literacy (8th grade students). PILOT and PILOT Jr. are available for these two data sets.

◆ Title IID

These federal dollars are level funded for next year, and the competitive project will be the Microsoft Peer Coaching Project. The good news (and bad news) is that 45 additional districts became eligible for these competitive funds because they didn't make AYP. Applications for the competitive grant dollars are on OSPI's web site at <http://www.k12.wa.us/edtech/eett09.aspx>, and are due to OSPI no later than March 31. Schools can have more than one applicant, but past coaches can not apply. Up to 133 teachers will be selected for participation in the competitive Microsoft Peer Coaching Project.

◆ President Obama's Stimulus Package

This package has passed the House and is now in the Senate. It is hoped that it will be passed by President's Day. There is \$1 Billion for educational technology, and it will most likely be distributed using the same funding formula as the current Title IID program. The goal is to improve student achievement through educational technology. Half of the dollars are available to districts on a formula basis (at approximately \$3.5 per student), and other half are available on a competitive basis. 25% must be used for professional development. The formula funds would provide districts with the current amount, plus twice as much more. In addition to this year's competitive project on peer coaching, the state is also looking at making an additional competitive project available as well.

Another part of the Stimulus Package includes \$14 Billion for the modernization of schools, including networking and wiring. It is anticipated that approximately \$100 million will come to Washington during each of the two upcoming years. Dennis is not sure how it will be allocated. The House supports the use of these dollars for the purchase of computers; the Senate does not. The first year of funding could come as early as July 1, and will need to be spent within 15 months.

Normally, a school or district can not use federal dollars to pay for items that have historically been paid with state or district dollars. However, because these dollars are to be used to stimulate the economy and make up for what the state can't pay, the feds may be looser with their policy around this. It may take an additional month or two for the feds to release their decision about this.

◆ New Leadership at OSPI and Technology

Randy Dorn, the recently elected Superintendent at OSPI, wants to move away from the WASL. He also wants to start moving toward using computers to administer the replacement test. The pilot for this would take place in the spring of 2010. Dennis knows that districts will have capacity issues, as 25% of the schools don't have computer labs. Supt. Dorn wants to look at using the basic ed funding for technology for this purpose. Dennis is working with the assessment and data staff at OSPI on this effort.