

Westside AzTEA Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 4, 2008

12:30-2:00pm

Pendergast Learning Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

In attendance were:

Cyndie Carroll
Sunshine Darby
Rosy Escandon

Peggy George
Amanda Hughens
Jan Irvin

Ruben Montoya
Laura Sheehy
Shawn Wheeler

II. Business (old/new)

Continued discussion of ways to promote AzTEA and increase membership (Goal #1). Consider putting announcements and information on IDEAL from AzTEA to help make educators more aware of AzTEA. We also have a Moodle site for AzTEA and we can add content for workshops on Moodle but need to make people aware of it. There is a newsletter blog for each chapter on Moodle but we haven't started posting there. Need to find a way to do a listserv without needing to rely on UofA. We would have to enter email addresses and contacts in the database. Can't send out blanket emails through the wikispace. We could use RSS but people need to be educated about how to use RSS. Jan suggested that teachers don't really want to have to browse through wikispaces to find what they need. They would prefer to find specific information they need in a targeted way. IDEAL is providing a space for collaboration through interest groups and anyone can create one. We could provide an AzTEA space where teachers can reach out to us for information and we can respond to specific requests. We can provide links on our IDEAL space to lead them to more information without duplicating information on both sites. Laura Sheehy suggested making "announcements" on IDEAL including chapter meetings, workshops, conferences. Shawn suggested we could use the wikispace and discussion areas to collaborate but the challenge is how to let people know this is available without having to send out tons of emails. RSS would be a valuable way to get the word out if people would subscribe to our RSS feed. Concern was expressed that RSS is too intimidating for beginners. Jan suggested we could post a calendar with links to information. Many districts provide services for technology support but they are often restricted to teachers in their own district. Scottsdale has a great support site and Rosy Escandon volunteered to showcase the Scottsdale site in our April meeting. Shawn recommended that we start offering training on RSS and "walk the talk" to help people learn ways to keep up with good information rather than waiting for something to come via email. RSS is a communication tool-sort of like Tivo and you can access it when and where you need it. This would help them to know where to go to find this information. Del.icio.us and Bloglines are two of the most powerful tools available for Web 2.0. On Del.icio.us you can share favorite bookmarks with anyone you choose and they can join your network if they're interested. Focusing on content areas or teaching strategies would provide very specific support for teachers. Rosy pointed out the challenges of providing tech support when every school is allowed to select their own applications and there are few common applications that are used by all. Peggy suggested the importance of administrative support for using technology and requiring teachers to use technology to enhance instruction by monitoring and evaluating its use. Some districts do this and many districts do not which is a matter of priorities as well as the comfort level/expertise of administrators. Good teaching is observable whether the observers are experts with technology and you can observe whether the technology supports the teaching objective. Key is professional development and viewing it in a flexible way so that there is

follow-through with implementation in classrooms/schools. We have identified many problems but not many solutions. IDEAL may be a key in facilitating access to our resources.

Ed Tech Website of the Month:

February Website of the Month: Amanda Hughens, Director of Educational Technology, Litchfield Elementary School District

<http://www.lesd.k12.az.us/departments.cfm?subpage=95409>

<http://www.lesd.k12.az.us/intranet/departments.cfm?subpage=174628>

Amanda shared both sides of her website (internet and intranet) On the intranet she has begun a repository for integrated lesson plans that require technology integration that all Career Ladder level 3 teachers submit. All teachers have microphones. A standard lesson plan template is being used. Jan Irvin said she would share the blank one-page document they are using with the Math-Science project that is very simple and less intimidating to use. (posted on Westside wikispace).

Litchfield is moving towards all online forms for everything—not letters of reference yet. Very positive reaction from teachers on the changes on the website although always some resistance to change that is perceived as “extra work” for teachers. Middle school principals are starting to require daily teacher lesson plans and the template facilitates this. School webmaster reviews each teacher’s website to ensure they are current and appropriate, and Amanda reviews all of the district sites. Laura raised a question about parent concerns re: student blogging and safety. AUP is essential for defining the parameters of use such as not using first/last names, photos with names, etc. Many blogging tools allow you to restrict access to only those you allow—edublogger.com is a great site for schools—also classblogmeister.com. Blogger.com is not an appropriate site for schools because of access to other blogs when they log in. Online safety is a big issue/high priority for Litchfield. There is a link to the Channel 12 video about MySpace on the Social Networking workshop site that cautions teachers about what they post on MySpace and FaceBook. Shawn recommended an interesting search for educators is to search on Wikipedia for their school/district name. Very enlightening to see what people are posting about your district. Everyone agreed that Litchfield has an awesome technology site!!

III. Share & Solve

Discovery Education Virtual Conference: Update from Rosy Escandon about the first ever DEN Virtual Conference on Saturday, Feb. 2. Very informative, exciting day with an introduction to some fantastic new tools. Lunch was provided and it was a great opportunity to watch the presentations and dialogue with people attending in person. There was also a chat room available online where we could contribute to everyone around the country participating in the conference. All of the presentations will be posted online.

http://community.discoveryeducation.com/about/webinar_archives

Keynote: Lost in Translation

Keynote: Revenge of the Digital Immigrants

Building a Bigger Builder

The Bionic Lesson

50 Ways to Spin a Digital Story

Peggy shared a few new resources to explore on the meeting agenda but we ran out of time to introduce them in our meeting. You are encouraged to check them out on your own. ☺

Kwout <http://kwout.com/>

Tumblr <http://www.tumblr.com>

Kenya Escape through Digital Storytelling

<http://scottsfloyd.edublogs.org/2008/01/24/kenya-escape-through-digital-storytelling/>

EduBloggerCon2.0 Conference

<http://educon20.wikispaces.com/Agenda>

IV. Special Interest Topics

No new topics discussed due to lack of time.

V. Westside Workshops for 2007-08

Update on social networking workshop held on Thursday, January 17, 2007--a great success! :-
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<http://westsideleadershipteam.wikispaces.com/Workshop-Social+Networking>

Decided to offer next workshop in February on VoiceThread since there was so much interest in this in the January workshop. Sunshine volunteered to co-present this workshop with Dave Beard. Shawn also offered to do a workshop on podcasting in April. Teachers seem to be very interested in hands-on, practical, single-topic workshops—some interest in grant writing, eportfolios, Smartboard training, and some very specific applications. The Cartwright Training Center is an outstanding location for holding these workshops because of central location on Westside, Mac mobile lab with wireless access, and large space to accommodate up to 250 people. Participants can also bring own laptops with wireless access. 4:30-6:00pm seems to be a good time to hold the workshops. We have some chapter funds available to provide snacks or pizza for the workshops. Maricopa County is doing a workshop on first Friday in June on Educator's Expo and looking for exhibitors and presenters. Laura was encouraged to put that on the AzTEA wikispace (Non-AzTEA Conferences and Workshops). Rosy reminded people of the Cartwright "Reach for the Stars" conference day on Saturday, March 8 and is still looking for presenters.

VI. Conference Updates:

(WOW) Time to register and submit presentation proposals if you haven't done this already. Registration forms and payment procedures are all online this year: <http://members.aztea.org/> For up-to-date planning information and volunteering to help with WOW you can access the site here:

<http://www.wienerdogs.com/page.asp?o=aztea&s=WOW&p=1760>

First WOW planning meeting is Wed. February 6, 4:30-6:00pm at Ruth's house.

VII. Next meeting:

Monday, March 3, 2008, 12:30-2:00 p.m., at the Pendergast Learning Center

Minutes submitted by Peggy George