ISTE NETS-A Standards Paper #1

Standard #1: Visionary Leadership

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In examining the International Society for Technology in Education’s Standard 1 for Leadership and Vision, it becomes evident the steps that Educational Administrators must use in order to develop or revise a vision for technology use within their educational community. Each of the indicators lay out the steps that are needed to be taken in order to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure that curriculum guides and technology use work together in a way that best enhances the learning of the students.

Alexe Miles and I conducted a survey using SurveyMonkey.com in order to determine the knowledge of the teachers and administrators regarding a technology vision at Andrews Elementary School. Andrews Elementary School is a large, rural Title I elementary school in Georgetown County. Many of the students that attend this school do not have consistent access to technology outside of the school setting. The limited access that they do have is not regularly used for educational purposes but for entertainment only. Due to this research being conducted during the summer break, only a small portion of the teachers/administrators responded. For this particular survey 21 out of 50 people responded.

The focus for this survey was determining the knowledge of the teachers regarding a technology plan for our school. Our first question was determining which grade level the respondent would be teaching for the next school year. Of our respondents, two will be teaching PreKindergarten, two will be teaching Kindergarten, one will be teaching first grade, three will be teaching second grade, two will be teaching third grade, three will be teaching fourth grade, and three will be teaching fifth grade. Five other people responded from administration or special education.

Our second question was if our school has an existing vision and mission statement to determine whether we address all major instructional strategies and corresponding issues with technology use. Twelve responded yes, two responded no, and seven responded “I don’t know.” This is one of the areas that concerned us most in that teachers are unaware of a technology plan for our school. While our school does not have its own specific technology plan, we follow the technology plan for Georgetown County School District.

Our third question was if the teachers have a copy of a technology plan for our school. Only three of the respondents answered that they did have a copy of our technology plan. This was very concerning to us that the majority of our respondents do not have a copy of our technology plan even though it is available on the district’s webpage or have the knowledge that it is located there.

The responses to our fourth question are very misaligned with our previous question’s response. On this question we asked if they had a copy of their grade level instructional program plan or curriculum guide. For this question, 18 respondents indicated that they did have a copy and three that they did not. This could be due to an administrator responding or one of the three newly hired teachers.

Our next question looked at how teachers felt it would be best to revise our technology plan. The majority indicated that working with groups during grade level planning time would be the preferred way. The next most referred way for revising our plan would be through small groups of teachers from various grade levels working as a committee.

Our next question was in what method they would prefer to receive a copy of the technology plan. The majority of the respondents indicated that they would prefer a digital copy to be emailed to them. The next preferred method of communication of the technology plan was for it to be uploaded to the school’s website in order to be accessed by the teachers as well as other stakeholders.

Our final question regarded the risks that teachers would be willing to take in increasing their technology use now that our school will be a 1:1 school with the addition of Chromebooks. Overwhelmingly 16 teachers indicated that they would most definitely use the Chromebooks for educational website use with the other five indicating that they would likely use them for websites. Eight of the teachers responded that they would most definitely use the Chromebooks for online writing portfolios, while 11 said it would be likely, one said it was unlikely, and one indicated that it was not happening. When asked about implementing a digital classroom with online assignments, quizzes, tests, and homework, eight indicated that they would most definitely be implementing, ten indicated that it was likely, two indicated that it was unlikely, and one indicated that it was not happening.

Technology use at Andrews Elementary will be changing as we implement a 1:1 initiative which began in the spring of 2017. Our school was fortunate enough to receive a school improvement grant which will allow us to go 1:1 prior to the district’s planned date. We have had the use of laptop carts for four years already. We started with one cart per grade level but increased to one cart in grades K-2 and two carts in grades 3-5 the following year. Our school also has the use of the three iPad carts (20 per cart) which were initially purchased for use with Project Lead the Way and other STEM instruction in the fall of 2016. Our teachers are encouraged by our administrators to take risks and utilize technology for more than just educational websites. The use of online writing portfolios, webquests, digital presentations of research, digital study aides, and other multimedia projects were encouraged by administration and facilitated by our media specialist and technology coaches. Based on our surveys administered to our teachers and administrators, our concern is low in regards to our administration being visionary leaders. Our only concern is the need for the plan to be more accessible to the teachers at the school.

Reference

Georgetown County School District Technology Plan. (2016, March 23). Retrieved June 11, 2017, from <http://images.pcmac.org/Uploads/GeorgetownCountySD/GeorgetownCountySD/SubDepartments/DocumentsCategories/Documents/Technology_Plan_2016_2020.pdf>