District Learning Technology Plan

Saco School Department

Date Approved by School Board: August 17th, 2016

Plan Authors:
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Kevin LaFortune - School Board Chairman
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Schools Affected by the Plan:
Young Elementary School
Gov. John Fairfield Elementary School
Clementine K Burns School
Saco Middle School
Saco/OOB Adult Education

Section II: Shared Vision for Learning:

The Saco School Department underwent a re-visioning process to align our core values and goals for the students and staff of the district. A committee of valued stakeholders, including elected officials, staff members, parents/community members, along with building-based and district administration, formed the new roadmap for the district. The vision **"Embrace, Engage, and Empower"** was chosen as it is the common thread that the district and community felt best identified the district's passions. The district's mission is as follows: "All students must have access to high quality teaching and rigorous learning opportunities. To prepare for a global society, our students' skill sets must include effective communication, critical thinking, creativity, and resilience."

The vision, being at the core of the district's guiding principles, helps maintain the path and accountability of many aspects of learning and the technology that enriches and supplements that learning. The strategic plan of the district, which is attached as an addendum to this plan, solidifies the role of technology and how it is deployed and utilized. Finally, we tie in the key stakeholders who will be responsible to the success and adherence of these plans. This learning plan will act as our compass and filter to help guide our decisions for technology in the classroom and as communication platforms to keep our community informed on all matters.

Section III: Shared Leadership:

Formed on July 1, 2015, the Saco School Department solidified a Technology Committee in the fall of 2015 that was tasked to address the creation of the technology vision and strategic plan. Under the leadership of a new Superintendent, the Saco Schools issue a plan that has been backed by the community to invest in the technology facilitators throughout the district. With the hiring of a district-based technology department, including a full-time Data Manager, Support Specialist, and Technology Integrators, our vision of supportable technology deployments for the staff and students has become achievable.

The MLTI program, that is currently at the 6th-8th grade level, has been a valuable venture as it has demonstrated the power and breadth that technology can introduce in to a district. Along with the MLTI program, the Saco Schools have a base of district-provided hardware, some of which is in the process of being upgraded, that complements the MLTI methodology. Saco Schools have begun to invest in the technology needs at all levels and to all personnel. Along with the updated technology being rolled out under the new administration, the exposure to and availability of professional development opportunities has increased for staff. This broader spectrum of staff has also benefitted the district by broadening the audience for stakeholder feedback. Staff can now have a platform in which to convey what works for a specific grade level and thus have an impact on what is procured for hardware. District IT, Leadership Team,

Technology Committee, along with building-specific staff, will be responsible for the selection and maintenance of district-wide applications, platforms and teacher resources as they relate to the technology vision.

Prior to the assembly of the Technology Committee, the former Acceptable Use Policy from RSU 23 was used as the overarching policy of acceptable digital citizenship and humility. Saco Middle School's policy governs the take-home use of the MLTI devices deployed at that school. Both of these policies are referenced in the Links Sections of this document. The new standards for digital citizenship can be found in the Saco Schools Technology Plan, again noted in the Links Section. To provide some rigid formality to the new policies that will take effect in SY2016-2017, Saco Schools also provides additional layers of security to aid in the protection and safe use of district technology. Along with the content filter provided by Network Maine, Saco Schools utilize proactive monitoring and threat protection to help in the safeguarding of students, staff, and district investments. Among these safeguards are site-based firewalls that have site-based policies to block unapproved traffic, district-based routing and authentication measures, as well as controls and filters local to the hardware used by staff and students.

Section IV: District Learning Technology Data and Action Plan:

The Superintendent and IT Department have conducted surveys, and the Technology Committee compiled information from all schools in the district and at all grade levels. This provided copious amounts of feedback on a number of topics, which in turn has provided the district leadership and technology staff with concrete evidence as to what items need to be addressed to provide the best level education to meet our vision.

Section IV, Part A: Student Learning & Teacher Practice

Results of the Data -
The overarching theme that resonated from the feedback was equipment reliability, being both network and devices, and how it related to the success of a lesson or exercise. This comes into play with having devices readily available to deliver the lesson and the having the environmental technology work in sync with the lesson.

Implications -

Currently grades sixth through eighth are one to one via the use of the MLTI deployments. This is not the case for grades kindergarten through fifth. At the lower grade levels students have access to older, but serviceable, devices that supplement the lesson. The district administration and IT Staff have set forth a plan to begin to implement new devices and in higher density or one to when when applicable. Much of these improvements will provide better alignment between teacher and student, thus allowing for more collaboration and interaction via technology.

Interventions and Next Steps	Person/Position Responsible	Timeline
Extend 1-to-1 to all grade levels	IT Staff & Superintendent	Ongoing
Provide widespread, reliable highspeed Internet access in each building	IT Staff	SY 2017-2018
Maintain current and supportable equipment	IT Staff/Superintendent/School Board	Ongoing
Staff IT department to support students and staff	Superintendent/ School Board	SY 2017-2018

Section IV, Part B: Leadership for Learning Through Technology

Results of the Data -

District staff provided a clearly articulated request for more Technology Staff and building based Technology Integrators for lesson creation, creative solutions, more access to support and faster turnaround of device preparation.

Implications -

The implications of this request would be increases to the budget to support these requests as well as increased success rates of integrating technology into the classroom and educator buy in for new technology. It is critically important to provide an environment that is well planned, supported and lends to safe yet invigorating lessons.

Interventions and Next Steps	Person/Position Responsible	Timeline
Instill responsible digital citizenry in staff and students	IT Director & Superintendent	Ongoing
Provide access to up-to-date training materials for technology use	IT Director & Superintendent	Ongoing
Provide a safe and secure network environment for positive learning experiences	IT Staff	Ongoing

Support PLC and professional development opportunities to use and train on technology	IT Staff/ Educators & Superintendent	SY 2017-2018

Section IV, Part C: Professional Learning

Results of the Data -

The access to pertinent and valuable PLC time was captured by numerous surveys and forums. The Superintendent and district staff realized the importance of added time for professional groups to assemble to reflect and collaborate. Out of this added professional time came the platform for educators of all grade levels to discuss and help one another with their technology integration needs and strengths, This also now provides IT staff with more timeframes to reach out to staff and aid in the resolution of support needs and be able to craft the solutions for the classroom.

Implications -

The implications of this are all positive. There was some pain points with having to change the district calendar and schedules, but the pain was minimal and brief.

Interventions and Next Steps	Person/Position Responsible	Timeline
Create more professional development time & opportunities	Superintendent	SY 2016-2017
Provide technology for professional development	IT Staff	Ongoing
Provide beginner and technical trainings	IT Staff	Ongoing
Enhance technology via professional development stakeholder feedback	IT Staff/Superintendent	SY 2016-2017

Section IV, Part D: Learning-Focused Access

Results of the Data -

Availability to current and reliable equipment to provide a rich blended learning environment to better capture the attention of the learners.

Implications -

The Saco School Department IT department created a plan and budget projection to provide the staff to support the theme of Learning-Focused curricula as well as the equipment to support it. This will require buy in from all stakeholders and adherence to capital improvements and device rotation policies.

Interventions and Next Steps	Person/Position Responsible	Timeline
Encourage use of learning-focused practices (i.e. blended learning)	Superintendent/Director of Curriculum	Ongoing
Support the technology for learning-focused practices (i.e. blended learning)	IT Staff/Director of Curriculum	Ongoing

Section V: Responsible Use:

Saco Schools are proactively trying to deploy a one-to-one student to device model. With this model comes the importance of teaching and reinforcing using technology responsibly and importance of strong digital citizenship. The District has funded numerous staff to attend local and regional training opportunities to understand what both of these topics mean and how to teach them responsibly. Saco Schools are committed to instilling the appropriate use and balance of technology, both in the classroom and out, to create a healthy balance of screen time. The vision to foster an aware group of students has empowered the district to adhere to programs like National Screen Free Week and a balanced ratio of screen based instruction time.

While all the grade spans within the Saco School Department adhere to the "screen time code of ethics" different grade levels have utilized and deployed the use of technology to meet the needs of students to engage and prepare them for the challenges that lay ahead. All grade spans are to adhere to the district wide policies, but the creative freedom to best utilize the technology available is highly encouraged to motivate the classroom.

Policy and Documents attached

Section VI: Certifications:

By signing below, the superintendent is acknowledging the following:

- The district has completed one Technology Access Survey per school in the district
- The information submitted in the Technology Access Survey is accurate

- The Learning Technology Plan has been approved by the SAU's school committee
- The district is committing to work the plan (recognizing that plans do evolve over time)

SAU MEDMS ID # & Name　　　　　　Superintendent Email

Superintendent Signature　　　　　　Date