

St. Dominic Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Present were Chris Hugi, Jodi Howard, Fr. Dave Reith, John Chovanec, Joyce Sauer, Patty Ott, Tom Wetzel, Tom Rieger, and Verne Moore.

The March minutes were approved.

Streaming music and video were discussed in relation to our internet bandwidth. Our Road Runner contract was renewed for three years at our current download and upload speed.

Peachtree Accounting will no longer be supported by the end of the year. Karen indicated she prefers to old version to the new version. We hope to acquire an accounting program that integrates with our database. The staff evaluations of the database programs stalled for ACS and PDS. The workgroup continues to try and determine which program is the best solution to go head to head with Logos II. PDS has offered free training and some additional modules to keep our business. Chris Hugi would like to schedule the server upgrade. Determination of a possible database conversion date is needed. Meg will respond to Chris.

The SPAM filter will be upgraded. Recent SPAM activity has increase to a degree that it is becoming a detriment to work efficiency.

The school teachers were given the opportunity to evaluate the online encyclopedias. Based on the reports Joyce has received, grades 4-8 seem to have the most interest and their preferred choice is Britannica. Tom will check if they have a Spanish version and if there is any additional expense. The cost would be \$390. Fr. Dave suggested that the 8th grade class be approached to give the program as a parting gift to the school, or request H&S consider this enhancement if funding is available. Patty Ott check Houghtin-Mifflin's math software. She found it to be more remedial vs. drill-based. There are links to web-based manipulator software which would cost \$10-12 per computer. There is also free software on the web for drill-based work. Another option would be purchasing programs such as the Edmark brand. Patty will survey the teachers to determine which option would best fit their needs.

The 10 additional SMARTboards are installed. The school now has 12 boards. Teachers will be having training in May. Title 1 Funds will provide onsite training. Joyce asked if cables could be provided that would connect the TV/DVDs to the SMARTboards. The cables would run \$15-20 each. The use of the TVs was then questioned which lead to cable reception with the upcoming digital conversion in February 2009. Time Warner should be contacted to find out what options and concerns we may be facing. The other concern regarding connecting the DVDs to the SMARTboards was the cost of replacement bulbs which is \$300. Average life of a bulb is 3000 hours but that may be less depending on the projector settings. The school needs to budget for replacement bulbs and future projector replacements. Protecting the boards after hours was a concern. Many of the rooms are used for a variety of purpose by a variety of groups. Developing a stronger room reservation policy and marking and protecting equipment were suggested.

The IBM grant computers will be loaded with XP. A formal thank you to John and Pat Waymel will be sent. Recruitment letters were sent out. A new member of the committee, Verne Moore was introduced. His background is in disk storage and tech

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Date may change due to the Capital Campaign meetings that night.

Meg Picciolo
Technology Secretary