

Committee Update – March 2007

Technology Committee: Linda White, Chair, lindabwhite1@aol.com

The Technology Committee held a Web Site Workgroup on Monday February 26, 2007. Participants included Principals, Teachers, Students, Parents and Staff from the Community. Most people expressed a concern about out-of-date and/or badly organized school web sites, and a desire to aid in improving their particular school's site as well as other school sites throughout MCPS. Some felt their sites were well-managed in terms of content, timeliness, and stakeholder input, and expressed a desire to share their methods with other schools. Those who feel their sites were falling short are looking for help and ideas from other schools on how to improve their web communications.

Consistent themes were:

- Lack of time and resources to keep web sites up-to-date
- Teachers and other school staff being given webmaster duties without prior training in web communications.
- Webmasters leaving and schools having no staff to take over web sites
- Little or no knowledge of what the school system and parents expect from school sites
- How to engage students so they will access and engage in school sites.

Desired outcomes

- Feb 26, 2007 meeting: Define the desired state for school web sites (ES. MS. HS)
- April 23, 2007 meeting: Outline the obstacles to reaching the desired state. Why can't we achieve it?
- June 12, 2007 meeting: Outline some possible solutions to overcoming the obstacles.
- By the end of the process the MCC-PTA Technology Committee will have some kind of recommendation to take back to the MCC-PTA, MCPS central office, and the schools

The Best of the Web nominations will open on February 27. Anyone can nominate a site. Also there is a new category – student contribution. Information will be in the Feb. 27 webmaster e-mail and will be on WST site. Only webmasters will vote for winners. The winners will be presented at the Webmaster convocation Apr 25th. Maybe this workgroup can evaluate the winners to help with further outlining of the desired state of school web sites.