SCES 2012-2013 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The voices of every staff member at SCES cry out loudly with the words “Make it work!” The immediate concern is the slowdown that takes place every afternoon and even on weekends when staff comes in to put in grades, etc. Before technology will be embraced daily in every classroom, it has to function. Currently it does not. The building plan has been modified from last year’s priorities to try to make sure that everything inside the building supports a working system. Our teacher workstations are too old and too limited? OK, let’s replace them. The students have almost no working stations in the classroom. OK, let’s fill that void. When the system works appropriately, we can expand and use the wonderful tools gathered in the past year. Until then, teachers will move forward without using the tools of technology in a meaningful way. It is as simple as that.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every teacher was a part of the process to determine realistic needs and goals for the classrooms. PLC time was designated for discussion of goals for the building and completing a survey of individual classroom needs. Additional input was from the parent representatives at an SBDM meeting as a topic for discussion. The IT Dept. personnel assigned to the building were also questioned as knowledgeable resources for the building plan.

TECHNOLOGY VISION & GOALS

With each classroom having a document camera and most classrooms having either a SMARTBOARD or an AIRLINER as a result of last year’s technology additions, the next step would be different were it not for the problems teachers are experiencing using the newly acquired tools. Teacher workstations are not supporting the new tools. The immediate goal is now to replace the teacher workstations with new computers and increased memory. The current teacher workstations will be usable as student workstations with memory enhancement, as per IT opinion. Hopefully slowdowns and freezing computers will become a thing of the past.

The next goal will include making more minis or ipads available to the classrooms. The single classroom set of minis is insufficient for a school of this size. An additional classroom set of minis or additional ipads that can be checked out to the classrooms is needed. Teachers will be able to make class assignments that all students will be able to complete in a reasonable length of time.

Following the availability of more minis or ipads, additional software programs need to be purchased. There is a current need as per the survey summary but the software would not be usable on a regular basis unless more computers are available to the classrooms. MAP scores help teachers identify deficient areas for individual students but the inclusion of computer backed programs is needed to heighten interest and efficiency in helping students “catch-up”.

Longer term goals include acquiring a sufficient number of ipads or similar machines so that textbooks can be downloaded rather than purchased. Copier costs eat up such a large piece of the building funds that an additional goal should include moving to a paperless classroom with student work being completed on line.

PLANNING PROCESS/ METHODOLOGY MISSION STATEMENT

Spencer County Elementary School seeks to develop technology resources that enable teachers to teach to greater depths of understanding while allowing students to learn and develop skills that are capable of utilizing the newest technologies to enhance and solidify learning. It is our goal that a student exiting this school will be capable, familiar and competent when meeting the challenges of the next level of education.

Students will be able to use computers to research, SMARTBOARDS to communicate information with other students, flashdrives and document cameras to display findings, and in effect, contribute to the quality of life for themselves and others. This will be learned by observing teachers utilize the same equipment and having teachers guide them in utilizing these tools.

GOALS

The current goal is to have functional technology available and being used by every teacher in every classroom. What we have right now is not functional. We need to make the system a working system. The goal is to get where our Mission Statement drives us and it appears that dilapidated teacher work stations may be a root cause of the frustration and impatience exhibited as a result of unreliable tools. Each teacher should walk into a classroom next August with a new teacher workstation ready for them to use. This will only take place if we place orders in June or early July, if possible, with IT installing the equipment ASAP. These are equipment based goals but the teachers are trained and ready to use the new stations so goals that include professional development have already been begun.

OBJECTIVES

Teacher workstations are expensive and funding will need to be designated before that process can begin. Additional memory for current workstations about to be moved from teachers to students is less costly and can be ordered in June and placed in the machines in July. Three weeks after school begins teachers will know the first round of needs for additional software support. By late Sept. the MAP results will add valuable information about what remedial programs students need. Orders can be placed in September or October. Programs will be immediately available for teachers to enroll students. The next goal is to assemble a cart of minis to be made available for teachers to sign out. The final objective is to procure ceiling sound systems for classrooms. Eighteen teachers have requested these systems as their first or second priority after the system is working.

CURRENT TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

With document cameras in every classroom, SMARTBOARDS or Airliners available in most rooms, and a classroom set of minis available for checkout, there are basic technology tools available. A survey given to each teacher in the building came back 100% with a request that the priority be “do what it takes to get the system working reliably”. The next most popular item was a new teacher workstation. This was requested by 62% of the surveys and also coincides with the 100% request to “fix the system”. The top second choice, also on 62% of the surveys was a request for additional student workstations in the classroom. By adding memory to the old teacher workstations, this need can be addressed. A reliable working system will move teachers to get back to daily usage of the technology tools.

GENERAL ISSUES

There is basically one issue. Somehow we need to get the system to stop slowing down or freezing up. Too much time is wasted as a result of a deficient system causing teachers who have too much to do to abandon technology. We are relying on the IT Dept. to get us over this hurdle. Professional Development and skill enhancement can continue as soon as it is visible that technology tools can be trusted to work. Lessons utilizing SMARTBOARDS will be dusted off, used and improved. Students will have minis and ipads with useful programing that can be pulled up and used without frequent long wait times. Specialized equipment for specific disabilities will be usable. Switches were added last year at this time to help. Now what is needed? SCES wants it to work!

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusion is straightforward. The system is currently unreliable and time consuming. That needs to be fixed by the IT group and the school working together. To not do so would be to set our acquisitions from the prior year in mothballs. Teachers have too much curriculum to cover to spend time waiting for a system to recover. The recommendation is for us to work together to speed up the connection time and isolate the causes of the slowdowns.

TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING STATEMENT

The addition of SMARTBOARDS to the classroom has been the most exciting addition to classroom instruction this year. Walk into almost any of our classrooms in the morning and you will see teachers or students or both utilizing this tool. It is redefining instruction in the elementary classroom. Daily use of the document camera is standard in every room. Student time on the computer itself is limited by the number of available computers. Power point presentations continue to be one of the more popular student activities but with such a meager supply of student computers in the classrooms this activity can only be carried out in the computer lab.

TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS, REQUIREMENTS, AND MODELS

FOR TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING

Spencer County Elementary is loaded with teachers that desire to be excellent instructors. They want to include technology tools in their daily instruction. Teaching is a serious matter. The current slowdowns and freezing of the teacher computers has seen a growth in discarding time spent using modern technology. Other methods of instruction are now being more utilized. These other methods are not as efficient or as effective. We do need to get the problem fixed to turn this back around to where technology is embraced without reservation.

STAFF TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Professional development in augmenting new technology into the classroom is effective when it meets the needs of the classroom teacher. Shorter, more frequent bursts of small group instruction followed by individual support as has been conducted in the current school year has been well received. Beginners are not intimidated and intermediate levels of ability are allowed to grow. Both groups are still evident in the faculty and varied presentations on D/PD days and after school PD sessions need to be continued in this 2012-2013 school year. The primary topic to be addressed is using the SMARTBOARD. The second topic that needs to be covered is the Airliner.

PROJECTS, BUDGETS, AND TIMELINES

Phase One:

Order Memory Sticks for existing teacher workstations to prepare them for transfer to student work stations. Ordered by school personnel Timeline: May, 2012 Cost: $3000.00

Source of funds: SBDM Account

Phase Two:

Fund Study Island for existing programs. Ordered by school personnel. Timeline: Feb., 2012 Cost: $1,200.00 Source of funds: SBDM Account

Phase Two-B

Additional software programs or Study Island extensions, as needed. Timeline: Oct., 2012 Cost: Estimate of $1,500.00 Source of funds: SBDM Account

Phase Three:

Order 48 Dell Computers with extra memory to be used as Teacher Workstations. Timeline: Order in June and pay in July. Cost: $22,000.00 Source of funds: Shared by SBDM and Technology Allocation for 2012-2013.

Phase Four:

Supplemental minis and/or ipads. This phase can only be completed as funding allows. The goal is 30 additional units. Timeline: Order in August. Cost: Up to $20,000.00 Source of funds: Split between building funds and Technology Allocation for 2012-2013.

Phase Five:

Ceiling Sound Systems for 18 classrooms. Funding is the prohibitive factor as building funds would run out before this phase can be completed. Source of funds: District Allocation.