Educational Technology Advisory Committee- ETAC
Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2017
Chair: Madison Wacaser  Chair-Elect: Julie Hopson  Administrative Liaison: Mark Lindstone
Technology Director: Mike Porter
LOCATION:
Educational Services Center

5:30 PM – Arrival
6:00 PM – Convene Meeting: Madison Wacaser - ETAC Chair 2017-2018
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
6:02 PM –Celebrating Successes-Peabody Elementary-Ms. Tammy Falcone
Ms. Linda Jones, Principal of Peabody, welcomed the committee and introduced the presenting teachers for the evening. Tammy Falcone, gifted & talented teacher, Callie Hester, first grade teacher, and Haley Kennedy, fifth grade teacher.
Ms. Falcone explained that the culture at Peabody is “Rather than use technology for the sake of technology, the implementation of technology should be with both plan and purpose”.

The committee watched students highlight their work and speak about the following projects:

- **Lightbox**- is a multimedia educational space that encourages students to see learning in a whole new light. Students receive a multimedia learning experience that incorporates audio, video, interactive activities, and much more across a variety of professionally developed curriculum.
- Designed to inspire today’s students, Lightbox incorporates videos, Google Maps, worksheets, audio, quizzes, and other interactive features.
- Students indicated this application helped them to memorize materials, is very interactive, fun and engaging. They enjoyed all the activities, including the web links and slide shows, and believe them to be useful.

- **Tinkercad**- is a simple, online 3D design and 3D printing app for everyone.
- Tinkercad is used by teachers, and kids, to make toys, prototypes, models, and jewelry.

Symbolism is exemplified in student’s “passion project”. After reading a book of their choosing, students create a project demonstrating something symbolic from their particular reading assignment. Some passion project topics include: Therapy dogs, that help with post-traumatic stress disorder, the building and repair of skateboards, and tap dancing.

**Class Seesaw**- Used from kindergarten-second grade: The younger grades are using an application called Class Seesaw, a free application that can be shared with parents. Kids can upload pictures, activities, and drawings, or can participate in a specific activity can be assigned by the teacher. Students can exemplify their thinking while doing an activity with an audio connect. The lesson is uploaded to a file which can then be sent to parents. The sharing allows parents to feel more
connected and have a better understanding of their child’s learning.

**Scratch** is a free interactive programming service that can be signed up for by students, teachers or parents. Students use the program to create interactive stories, design code, video games, create art, and animations, and even create music. After uploading their creations into scratch, students share their creativity with each other by sending a link to their work where comments can be made. This is a great activity for fostering collaboration. Students have also created math games, and created a stories using themes from books they are reading. Scratch has the ability to become increasingly more difficult as the student becomes more proficient in coding their activity.

**Interest survey** - Peabody is in currently rethinking their tech lab situation. The current lab may be turned into a Makerspace/STEM lab. Peabody staff is trying to get a feel for what students might be interested in, so they can accommodate those interests in the best way.

**6:30 PM - Mr. Robert Reichardt, Board of Education Liaison:**

- Mr. Reichardt congratulated Beth Best for hosting yet another successful STRIDE run.
- The Board will be getting recommendations from the long range planning committee around the proposal of changes in start times. It is a goal of the Board to make a final decision this calendar year which model might be used.
- The ETAC 2017-2018 charges and membership were presented.
- The Board is also exploring a change in the venue for high school graduations beginning in 2019. Denver University is being strongly considered.
- The “All Means All” resolution was approved. (meaning all children are welcomed and valued in the district.)

**6:35 PM - Reports and Discussion Items**

- Beth Best, LPS Foundation Executive Director thanked everyone who participated in the Stride.
- The Foundation has not yet determined the financial success of the fund-raising event.
- Stride t-shirts are still available for $15.00
- The Foundation will be unveiling a new logo soon.

**6:45 PM - ITS Report**

A partnership is being formed between learning services, the Foundation and ITS to facilitate a new program to begin this spring called “STEM starts here”. All schools, including charter schools, in grades 3 - 5 will have a STEM activity. The program will be very intentional and involve students having experiences using logic, programming, thinking, trying, data-collection, and hypothesis experimentation. Teacher training for this program will begin in November.

The staff computer refresh is well underway and includes Franklin, Moody, Peabody, Twain, Sandburg and Wilder. In addition staff projector refresh projects are underway in Powell, Goddard, and Arapahoe.

With the use of white-paper funding, the IT department has an initiative to put technology in the hands of K-2 students, but do it very thoughtfully. Technology will be used to access songs, games, identify a letter, drag and drop activities, and touch technology. There will be one cart of laptops per grade level.

**7:00 PM - Debrief of Offline October:**

Following up on the student initiative called “**Offline October**” several high school students from a variety of high schools came to debrief their experience with the challenge. During October, the
participating students encouraged their friends and classmates to unplug from social media for the month of October. The students described how unplugging for a month improved day to day, and face to face interactions. Relationships flourished with family members, and friends. Now that the students have experience under their belts, they believe next year’s participation might be even better. They will begin planning farther ahead of time, and expand advertising efforts. Their goal is to double participation numbers for next year.

Positive Effects of Unplugging:
- Students reported being more relaxed, and had more time to hangout together.
- Students felt no desire to re-download certain apps like Snapchat, and Instagram.
- Students hope to grow sponsorship next year. This year, they had sponsorship from businesses (iHop) who sponsored a pancake breakfast event.
- Face- to- face communication improved.
- Students practiced self regulation, responsibility improved.
- Students reported more confidence, more time spent doing homework, more time in general, happier, more engaged with friendships.

Bryan Breuer, Principal of Goddard Middle School, is a proponent of Offline October, therefore student’s attending Goddard had a high level of participation. Goddard began to implement a no cell phone usage policy for 3 days, however, after just one day, Bryan felt the impact was so positive, that will be looking to implement a policy that will prohibit cell phone usage during the school day. Most students have been very receptive to the change.

7:15 PM - Committee Discussion with Greg Sumlin, Principal of Options High School:
Greg spoke to the committee about his quest to have students become distraction free. Many of the students attending Options have issues with good decision-making, and self-regulation. In the beginning of the school-year, students were only permitted to have their cell phone out at one time during the day, that was during the lunch period. This policy did not seem to be working out very well; during lunch students were completely isolated and engaged only with their phones. Since then, Options has implemented a new locking phone pouch called YONDR. When students get to school in the morning, they place their phones in the YONDR pouch. It is then locked by the first hour teacher, each student is then responsible for retrieving their phone at the end of the school day. Gregg reported that disciplinary issues involving poor social media behaviors have dropped tremendously since this implementation.

Positive effects:
- Teachers can teach, they feel the removal of phone usage is a “game changer”.
- Students capacity for learning has improved.
- Teachers are getting through their curriculum with more expedience.
- Students are participating in more face-to-face socializing.
- Interesting [article](https://example.com) on cell phone usage and teens that Greg shared
- [Letter](https://example.com) sent from Greg Sumlin to parents regarding cell phone usage

7:30 PM - Committee Activity
The committee studied an [article](https://example.com) published by Common Sense Media regarding the media habits of children ages 0-8. There were 10 key findings in the executive summary. Committee members paired off, each group of two summarized key regarding the media habits and recorded them in Padlet. This information will be delivered to district elementary principals to inform them about the young students coming into their schools.

8:00 PM –Adjournment