



SUPPORT EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

– An East County EDC Partnership –

NOTES

February 4, 2010

Present: Rick Alexander, Erica Asbury, Adena Boxer, Stephen Clemons, Bob Collins, Sunny Cooke, Doug Deane, Jo Marie Diamond, Steve Halfaker, Dick Hoy, Sharon Jones, Michael Lewis, Henri Migala, Cindy Miles, Greg Ottinger, Jim Peabody, Dana Quittner, Deanna Weeks

San Diego County Office of Education CloudConnect Presentation: Greg Ottinger, Technology Integration Architect, and Stephen Clemons, Assistant Superintendent of Technology and Chief Technology Officer, gave a presentation on SDCOE’s cloud computing capabilities. Ottinger demonstrated many aspects of SDCOE’s CloudConnect system, however, because the system is so extensive, time constraints only allowed for approximately 30% of the features to be demoed.

The concept behind cloud computing is accessibility of the same virtual environment for administrators, teachers, and students, regardless of their physical location. A teacher can access his/her email, grade book, documents, programs, and more, simply by logging into a secure “private” cloud on the Internet. A private cloud, as opposed to a public cloud similar to Google, is much more secure and only allows access to specific people. SDCOE’s CloudConnect is available on any device, including an iPhone application.

Cloud computing allows virtual file storage, which means you never have to download anything to your desktop; everything is backed up on the “cloud.” Virtual file storage on the cloud eliminates the problem of having to locate a CD or flash drive where you saved a specific file, or the frustration of remembering that the CD/flash drive is at home or back at the office. All documents are stored in a center documents folder on the cloud and available to view/edit using programs installed locally on your machine or through Zoho, a web-based software similar to Google Docs.

Storage capacity on CloudConnect is only limited by the SDCOE servers. However, with storage prices constantly dropping and economies of scale, this is practically a non-issue. School districts can opt to utilize or “point” to their own storage servers or “point” to the SDCOE servers. Using your own servers is one way to decrease the cost of CloudConnect.

Customization is key to CloudConnect. There is no rigid class structure that teachers have to conform to; each teacher can determine which learning tools will be available to their students.

These learning tools will then be available to students as icons on their virtual desktop. Students will no longer have to remember usernames and passwords for the learning tools their teachers have assigned; this information will be stored at an administrative level and automatically saved for students. The only username/password students will need to remember is the one for their main CloudConnect login.

The virtual desktop and permission settings accessed through the Internet depend on the type of user logged in, such as Admin, Superintendent, Teacher, or Student. Some districts are also using CloudConnect for administrative and payroll purposes.

Doug Deane, President of DSD Business Systems, inquired about the system's wireless security. Ottinger explained that all the data is encrypted and that there are multiple firewalls.

As always, there will be planned server down time for updates. Recent unplanned down time lasted approximately ten minutes before the server was up and running again, with no loss of data.

CloudConnect also helps to promote uniformity in teacher websites by providing web tools and schemes pre-determined at the district level.

Ottinger mentioned that the goal is to get the cost of CloudConnect down to approximately \$9-\$10/student in addition to district costs.

For additional information, please contact Greg Ottinger at (858) 292-3722 or gottinger@sdcoe.net.

K-14 Proposal Update:

- **Education Updates**

High School: Bob Collins, Superintendent of Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD), reported on the district's budget priorities. While there will be no staff cuts, there is the possibility of a shortened school year, salary roll-backs (max 7.5%), furloughs, or a combination. Staff/faculty vacancies will not be replaced. The district plans to cut expenses except when it comes to literacy.

GUHSD has seen staff fostering creativity to help alleviate costs. The librarians announced a virtual library, and a new art program will be launching in 2 weeks.

The February 2, 2010 GUHSD Superintendent Newsletter focused on the budget cuts and is available at <http://portal.guhsd.net/GUHSD/superintendent/suptnews/2010/suptNews020210.pdf>.

Collins also reported that El Cajon Valley High School opened the doors for its new state-of-the-art science building this month.

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Community College: Cindy Miles, Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD), reported a 10-12% budget reduction for the district compared with last year, half of which will be covered by the already reduced number of staff. Enrollment is 2,000 students above what the district is getting paid for by the State. The hardest part about the CA budget crisis is looking ahead 4-5 years with similar cuts.

The district is proposing a 4-day workweek over the summer and reducing the number of summer courses by half.

Sunny Cooke, President of Grossmont Community College, reported that both colleges received (continuing) accreditation approval. Cooke also reported that Grand Canyon University has offered to accept nursing students, in their last semester, to further their degree, no questions asked.

Henri Migala, Executive Dean of Institutional Advancement at Cuyamaca Community College, reported that the new President, Stuart Savin, will be starting April 12. The college is also pursuing a \$500,000 grant for Chaldean refugees and in the process of submitting approximately \$3 million in other grants.

County: Greg Ottinger from the San Diego County Office of Education provided updated status on the Broadband grant SDCOE recently applied for; very little money has been awarded so far, however, additional information is expected from the government on February 17. Additionally, the County has decided to sign-up for Race to the Top.

Elementary: Steve Halfaker, Superintendent of the Lakeside Union School District (LUSD), commented that Lakeside is in a little better position as far as the budget is concerned as they will be partially relying on reserves. The District is still in the process of making layoff decisions.

- **Business/Community/Legislative Updates**

Business: Doug Deane, President of DSD Business Systems, has been working on Ethics in Business through the East County Chamber which is scheduled for February 18. The 98th East County Chamber Gala is also coming up on February 26.

Deanna Weeks mentioned that Bob Taylor of Taylor Guitars is interested in pursuing shop classes with local middle schools. The East County Economic Development Council Foundation's Annual Fundraiser benefiting local shop classes is scheduled for Friday, May 21; additional information on the fundraiser will soon be available at www.EastCountyEDC.org.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.