

Middle School CAT Team Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2010

A) Apologies – Viveka

B) Mr. Popinchalk asked next year's prospective CAT parent members to introduce themselves.

C) One-to-One Laptop Options – Middle School Pilot Program – 2010. **Mr. Steve Roberts, IT Director at CAC presented the one-to-one laptop options for next year:** Mr. Roberts presented an overview of the project stating that it would be a pilot program next year which would be established in phases. The students would carry or have access to a laptop from each class to the next, and whenever deemed to be appropriate, they would use technology. This approach would enhance the use of instructional technology that is already a daily part of a student's education in the Middle School. While not a new concept internationally, this would be new to CAC. If implemented, there would be responsibility and purchasing guidelines and expectations for the students piloting it. Currently, the discussion is centering around four different options: 1) A family purchase of choice based on specs provided by school. In this scenario, a loaner would be available should the family's purchased computer need repair. 2) A school-purchased program: this means that the school purchases, distributes, and collects them all back for the next year. 3) Family purchase through the school; the family would pay the purchasing price, but the school would manage the computer the same as if it was a school owned computer. 4) Family purchased through the school's vendor; school would hook families up with Apple for self-purchase. Under the warranty, the school would provide service on that machine. Currently, the idea is to implement this program with 40 students and two teachers (i.e. a team of two teachers sharing 40 students).

Mr. Popinchalk called for a vote among CAT members (including prospective member-guests) about the preferred option. The results are as follows (each person could vote for two options):

Option #1: 8

Option #2: 1

Option #3: 9

Option #4: 4

Comments from CAT: It was suggested to conduct a parent survey if possible on the matter.

Summary: There is a clear sense that CAT supports the idea of this pilot.

D) MATTERS ARISING:

- Question: Parent asked if we have the World Language data yet. Mr. Popinchalk responded that he would have this information available for the next CAT meeting.
- Update about School Store Inquiry: Mr. Popinchalk shared that he discussed the CAT members' concerns about such high-demand items as the Jansport backpacks and sports team gear not being available for sale at the school store. Mr. Popinchalk said that in the past, these items were purchased and made available for sale when were not available on the local market. However, it is no longer cost-effective to stock these items; parents should plan ahead and buy items during summer breaks. As another solution, a parent suggested creating an online bulletin board for parents to buy and sell used sports gear and equipment. Another CAT member suggested involving the Booster Club in this endeavor. All agreed this would probably be well received by the community at large.

E) Middle School Planning Considerations 2010/2011: Mr. Popinchalk hopes that by May he will be able to clarify the schedule and the numbers. Scheduling is a work in process.

F) Educational Continuity – Future CAT Transition Process: Mr. Popinchalk provided a short update on the move into the new Elementary School building which will be completed until August 2010.

G) Health and Safety Update: Nothing new to report. The Health Office is using the air testers on a daily basis and reporting the results of air quality to the administration.

Mr. Popinchalk reviewed with CAT members the number of the specific grade level openings for next year, and invited the parent guests to consider filling the vacancies.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Next meeting: May 19, 2010 at 3:30 in the Middle School Conference Room.