

Title of Session: School Admin's Forum Ed Tech (Safe-T)

Moderator: Charles Merritt

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Room: After School Online

BJ: while we wait to see if there will be other participants, how about a little housekeeping?

PatrickGst11: sure

CharlesM: Yes, please, BJ

SarathS: K

BJ: to make it easier to read your chat window, click on the Actions drop down menu in the upper right of your chat window

BJ: and scroll down to detach

PatrickGst11 smiles

BJ: We usually start the discussions here with introductions.

PatrickGst11: ok

BJ: Charles is the discussion leader for this session

CharlesM: Nice feature, BJ

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

CharlesM: I am an administrator at Palo Alto High School in California

SarathS: I am a semi retired education administrator from Sri Lanka, presently studying EDU in USA

PatrickGst11: I am a second grade teacher in MA

CharlesM: well, the purpose of the group is to discuss tech policy with regards to running a school or school tech program

PatrickGst11: ok

CharlesM: It would be a great way to start if we each shared a bit of why we are interests in technology in schools...

CharlesM: Shall I start?

PatrickGst11: please

BJ: Yes, please, Chuck

SarathS: yes, please, I am a bit rusty regarding USA policies, but will try to follow

CharlesM: I have been a Spanish teacher for nearly 20 years until recently...

CharlesM: My exposure to technology began in 1993 on returning to the US...

CharlesM: at that time, tech in the curriculum was limited to small projects on pcs and the occasional collaboration with industry...

CharlesM: I meant in Palo Alto, at least...

CharlesM: things have changed considerably in 10 years...

BJ: . o O (not everywhere)

CharlesM: thank you - good point - ...

CharlesM: I will try to talk about my context for now...

BJ nods

CharlesM: Technology in Palo Alto is quite taken for granted and the extent to which students are involved, greatly expanded...

CharlesM: recently, we had to make changes in the amount of work our students do on the network because of the district's security concerns

SarathS security? hmhhh

CharlesM: This was in spite of the fact that students working for the school have never broken into files here

CharlesM: the situation was brought about a reporter for a local paper that broke into a wireless network...

CharlesM: She had gone to a campus to "test" our security...

CharlesM: The consequences were to step back from allowing students to help run our technology effort...

SarathS thinking interesting, how objectives clash

CharlesM: Both good and bad things have resulted, but the broader issue is the importance of reexamining technology security and kids

CharlesM: Yes, there were very hard feelings on the part of the young men and women that built our network

SarathS: Question?

CharlesM: Yes, indeed

SarathS: was it a break in to the campus network or outside network

SarathS: Sorry I should have waited till after the initial introductions

CharlesM: Good questions. The reporter "saw" the academic (not admin) network on her computer but not secure files

CharlesM: I think we've done introductions; but we can elaborate on these in a minute if you like.

SarathS: k with me

CharlesM: My chief objective for today is to see if there is a desire to discuss school tech policy and if a scenario format would be helpful. I'm afraid I jumped right into a scenario. sorry

CharlesM: What do you think, Sarath?

SarathS: As I said I am a bit rusty on USA policy

BJ: Chuck, I think that the scenario format is good for this discussion.

BJ . o O (since Sarath and I are not as familiar with all the issues you have to work with)

BJ: Like, how secure does a network have to be?

CharlesM: The question of USA policy is in itself interesting, as the states are empowered by the US constitution to decide ed policy...

SarathS: ah ha, that's better I can identify with that

CharlesM: The network security, in federal law, must protect privacy of students...

CharlesM: Neither the state nor the federal govt weight in on tech specifics...

SarathS: Question? Is there a set policy on security issues in such scenarios?

SarathS: as state/local board policies?

CharlesM: so far, school districts have been left to themselves to define these

CharlesM: so, local boards, though this may not be true in some other states (besides ca)

SarathS: So are you then in the enviable position of being able to suggest a policy for adaption?

SarathS -) open skies

CharlesM: But the state of ca has said that electronic student data must only be handled by school staff

SarathS: Ok

CharlesM: so, we work out our policies within the constraints of state and fed. govt

CharlesM: But the question of firewalls, etc is left to districts...

SarathS: do you have separate LANs for school admin, that can be isolated for security

SarathS: that's how I handled the security issue in SL

CharlesM: Yes, we do, but we used to allow students to service the idfs, which we can no longer allow as there is a theoretical possibility for contact with the admin lan

CharlesM: (the switches are next to each other)

SarathS: Accepted, there is the risk of data contamination

CharlesM nods

CharlesM: so, the students that ran the academic lan (non-admin) can no longer touch the network

SarathS: but this is a physical location issue, that should not interfere with student's 'right' to get better/more experience

SarathS: I mean the policy looks alright to me,

SarathS: the location stuff should have been looked into at the planning stage, right?

CharlesM: Well, the district office (17 schools) has taken the position that students should no longer be involved at all

SarathS: It is a usual knee jerk reaction that is to be expected in such a situation, don't you agree

CharlesM: Unfortunately (I suppose) our initial network preceded "net day" and was built by students and parents and staff

SarathS: but can the physical separation be done?

SarathS: Its wiring, routers and switches

CharlesM: Yes, quite an overreaction, I think, and the separation would cost tens of thousands

CharlesM: I am heartened that you understand the value to the students!

SarathS thinks - Sometimes tens of thousand dollars have a way of getting approved where a few hundred will not, he he

CharlesM: Sometimes I feel quite alone in administration for thinking that we have lost something valuable. Y

SarathS: I always think of the needs of the students as paramount, having come from the service industry rather than education background

CharlesM: Yes, but the folk over me must agree that it is worth it.

CharlesM: Which service industry, if I may ask

SarathS: You know the inverted organization structure started in service industry

SarathS: Hospitality

CharlesM: Wonderful! That comparison would make a very interesting conversation

SarathS: I was a administrator for 15 years and learning education now in my retirement

CharlesM: What did you administer?

SarathS: always wanted to study EDU

SarathS: I was in charge of tourism education in Sri Lanka

CharlesM: Ahhh! I met some terrific eco-tourism students in Costa Rica last summer

SarathS: was involved in building and commissioning a state of art facility in Sri Lanka,

CharlesM: so, have thought about how the inverted org structure might apply to ed?

SarathS: thus my interest, also I am just finishing a project for establishing computer labs in the world's least developed country, Sierra Leone

CharlesM nods

CharlesM: West Africa?

SarathS: Why, students are the customers, and thus come on top of the structure, and teachers serve their needs and come in the middle,

SarathS: we poor administrators support the teachers and support staff to look after all the needs of the students

CharlesM: I subscribe to that idea, without knowing what it was called

SarathS: it is easier to picture an up market hotel / restaurant where the guests are, and substitute students

CharlesM: where do parents fit into the model?

SarathS: that is another interesting area,

SarathS: they fit in to two(three) different models

SarathS: in regards education par se, they are also in the teacher level

CharlesM: We talk about our "constituency" political language, I suppose, and it includes students, parents, teachers and the community. Maybe it is a little like that.

SarathS: giving inputs to the students, after all technically 1/3 of the time will be at home even sleeping

SarathS: Well I was looking at student/school relationship

CharlesM: Ahhh, I love it. parents are serving in your model. excellent.

SarathS: but yes in that other sense parents are our customers too

CharlesM nods

SarathS: that's why I said two and possibly three models

JimHi joined the room.

CharlesM: Yes, it doesn't exactly fit but it enriches the paradigm!

SarathS: in a global sense a school should serve the community, thus first customer in a macro sense is the community

SarathS: hi Jim

BJ: Hi, Jim. Welcome

JimHi: hi

CharlesM waves hi to Jim

CharlesM: We were just talking about different models for understanding school admin...

SarathS: I personally feel that parents are but extensions of community and as such should be listed at macro level

CharlesM nods

CharlesM: But it is interesting to note that they are not just consumers of the ed process...

SarathS: but will they not be supporting the education in students through their own inputs in an education process model,

SarathS: they, do

SarathS: and fit in right there with teachers

CharlesM: Jim, can you introduce yourself and Sarath and I will as well?

SarathS: and maybe we administrators should support that/time and resources willing

JimHi: I was just catching up but I am a teacher in middle school a former counselor

CharlesM: I am an assistant principal at Palo Alto High school in CA. I'm responsible for tech, budget, testing, etc

SarathS: I am a semi retired edu administrator from Sri Lanka

CharlesM: I was a Spanish teacher for almost 20 years before...

JimHi: This is my 29th year

CharlesM: Jim, how do come to be interested in tech policy?

JimHi: I have worked with schools and technology since Kentucky started their big initiative in 1990

BJ: KDE was a partner organization in TI1

CharlesM: I remember now..., we have seen many changes:-)

JimHi: My original introduction to TI was as a ITL with the state of KY

CharlesM: Can I change now to a bit of business?

CharlesM: I need to remember to invite you to join the SAFE-t group if you would like to...

CharlesM: It is a beginning group -- sorry someone is at the door

JimHi: Safe-t ?

BJ: School Admin Forum on Ed Tech

BJ : o O (SAFE-T)

JimHi understands

BJ: do you know how to find a group to join it, Jim and Sarath?

JimHi: Yes

SarathS: I requested for membership

CharlesM: I thought I would be ok here at school on a Sunday afternoon! sorry about that

BJ chuckles..you can run, but you can't hide?

CharlesM: Sarath - did I sign you up? I haven't received any new emails

SarathS my school actually operated on a 84 hour/week time table

SarathS: Yes, I did made a request

SarathS: a few mts before we started

CharlesM: You know, BJ, I think I should make this group open to ease the process. I didn't get the email, but that could be me. excuse me while I go upstairs to the room

CharlesM left the room.

BJ: we're a bit over the hour for this discussion. This was the first meeting of this SafeT group.

BJ: Chuck will meet again on the first Sunday of each month

SarathS: k

JimHi: Sounds good

BJ: and, hopefully, there will be some dialogue among the group on the group discussion board

SarathS: yes

CharlesM joined the room.

CharlesM: Hi, again

BJ: Chuck is making the group open

SarathS: got the email Charles

SarathS: tks

CharlesM: Done, much easier this way.

BJ: so it will be easier for others to join

SarathS: perhaps we can meet to look at the inverted OC

JimHi: I have left my group open as well, it is easier

CharlesM: That is a great idea! Right now, we've got a monthly meeting. Will that do do you think?

JimHi: I will look forward to it

SarathS: I too

SarathS: why a month? may I ask?

BJ: I think the group discussion board will be a good bridge between monthly meetings

CharlesM: Just now I'm rather busy, but we could meet more after December

SarathS: just for clarification

CharlesM: Oh, yes, that would be a good measure of our interest in the meantime

CharlesM nods

CharlesM: I have to check on the debate tourney going on here. I look forward to meeting again! ...

SarathS: I should take a look at how they work

SarathS: tks

BJ: Time for me is about up. Thanks for starting this discussion, Chuck

SarathS: see you all, then

SarathS: bye

CharlesM: Please feel free to post topics on the discussion boards. Bye

BJ waves goodnight

JimHi waves bye

CharlesM: Thanks, BJ