

## **Minutes for MSBO Technology Committee**

**January 26, 2017**

**12:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Blackboard Collaborate**

**Chair: Sam Accorso, Van Buren ISD**

### Welcome & Introduction

Members present – Fred Sharpsteen, Mecosta-Osceola ISD, Kevin Hustek, Warren Woods Public Schools, Nancy Couto, Armada Area Schools, Steve Gordon and Melissa Gilhoey, EUP ISD, Mike Conway, Clinton County RESA, Kris Young, Troy School District, Donna Zick, Riverview Community Schools, Mike Smith, AAESA/KRESA, Rod VanLoo, West Ottawa Public Schools, Rick Webb, Fremont Schools, Debbie Kopkau, MSBO and Sam Accorso, Van Buren ISD.

September and October minutes, Sharpsteen moved, Zick seconded. M/C Minutes approved.

### **TRIG Update**

Digital Learning Day, February 23, 2017

Incentives can only be used for PD if it is online testing.

### **M-Step**

Correspondence has been sent out for testing environment. There have some issues with devices but we will keep you updated through this committee.

### **REMC Update**

All new, two-year, supplies and equipment contracts started on January 1. Lots of customers ask in January when the new pricing will be posted online. The new items are live now! Each item includes a date stamp that shows when the price expires. The expiration for these items is December 31, 2018.

Because vendors and pricing may have changed since December 31, customers are encouraged to check the REMC SAVE catalog at [remcbids.org](http://remcbids.org) before they order.

We're excited to have the following new and expanded categories and two new vendors:

### **New Product Categories**

Maker stuff

Chromebook cases

Folding chairs

File cabinets

3D Printers

Elementary writing journals  
Paper towels  
Lampless and long-life lamp projectors  
SMART Learning Suite

### **Expanded Categories**

iPad cases  
Interactive displays  
Videoconferencing

### **New Vendors**

Yeo and Yeo  
Audio Enhancement

Vendors no longer on the bid are:

D&H  
Data Center Products  
Digital Age Technologies  
Insight  
Scott Electric

## **2017 REMC Device Purchasing Bid**

The TRIG Device Purchasing bid will transition to a REMC SAVE bid in 2017. There will no longer be device incentives, but otherwise, we plan on managing this bid the same way TRIG Device Purchasing was managed. Karen Hairston will continue to be the project manager.

Planning for the 2017 REMC Device Purchasing Bid is underway and specific information will be released as it is finalized. The important dates for the 2017 REMC Device Purchasing Bid are:

- Forecasting: 1/23/2017 – 2/10/2017
- Purchasing Window: 4/19/2017 – 9/30/2017

## **REMC SAVE Focus Groups**

REMC SAVE will be conducting focus groups of customers to help us understand how to better serve them. One focus group will be held during the MACUL conference at Cobo Center in Detroit on

Thursday, March 16, 11:15-12:45, room to be announced later. Lunch and a small gift will be provided to all participants. We will also hold at least two focus groups in other locations around the state on different dates for those who can't make it to Detroit.

Please email ([remcbids@remc.org](mailto:remcbids@remc.org)) names and email addresses for interested individuals by January 31, 2017. Be sure to indicate if they are interested in the MACUL focus group or one of the other ones. We will base the location of the other focus groups on those interested.

## **ReverTech**

It appears that ReverTech has exited the technology repair and parts business. REMC SAVE staff are trying to confirm this, but have thus far been unable to get a response. We will keep the REMCs informed as we learn more. In the meantime, schools should look for alternative sources for technology repairs. There are currently no alternatives available through REMC SAVE.

## **Resellers**

An increasing number of REMC vendors are using resellers to fulfill their sales. This new way of buying allows Michigan schools to choose who fulfills their orders, which can lower prices. Resellers are required to sell at the REMC SAVE Bid price, although high volume discounts may be available. Vendors currently using resellers are:

Audio Enhancement

Cisco

HP, Inc.

HP Enterprise

Spectrum

Orders with these companies are placed with REMC-authorized resellers. To find reseller contact information, visit <http://www.remcbids.org/content/vendorlist> and scroll down to the vendor whose products you're interested in. Resellers are listed with the contact information for the company. Please note that all resellers are required to follow the same rigorous application process as all REMC vendors. Only the resellers listed under each vendor are authorized. Buying from any other reseller makes the sale outside the REMC contract.

## **Calculators**

D & H Distributing did not bid on the 2017-18 Supplies and Equipment bid. Quill is our new provider for TI calculators. Please alert schools to this change.

## Did you know...

- REMC SAVE offers high capacity toner cartridges for HP Printers.
- Paper by the truckload is most cost effective. However, the next most cost effective is by the pallet which is 40 cases. We often see schools place two orders of 20 cases and it would have been less expensive if they ordered a pallet.
- Most REMC SAVE contracts are available to higher education, libraries, government agencies, healthcare facilities, and educational non-profits. If you have relationships with those organizations, encourage them to SAVE!

## Product Rating Debuts on remcbids.org

REMC SAVE recently rolled out a product star rating system. Users are required to log in to submit a rating. The account menu in the upper right corner of each screen has been updated to allow users to manage easily their ratings. Please encourage your customers to use this new resource that helps all Michigan schools know about the great products available through REMC SAVE.

### MDE Update

E-rate the window for 2017 is not determined. FCC chairman, Pia. Very vocal supporter of re-looking at the modernization form and not having a service list. E-rate moving to the Department of Education which may increase the offerings. 470 – KAISD – Schools and Libraries need to send a Letter of Agency. We had 8 people who have signed on.

On the State Board agenda in March is to present the ED Tech Plan. If you want to have a voice contact, Ann-Marie Smith and she will get your questions or comments.

GoOpen Community was launched in November to bring all the stakeholders together with the METL group to develop systems along professional learning and open education along with a repository. Maryland is using Amazon with their host. They have been having a difficult time confirming this. There are other systems that are open sourced. Library of Michigan, MACUL, Data Hubs, REMC, Grand Valley State, University of Michigan, MAME, and MVU.

Ann-Marie will be going to a FutureReady Summit to push the FutureReady Plan. Title 4a of ESSA for \$300 million funds for well-rounded education opportunities and safe and healthy students and the remaining portion for the effective use of technology. Over \$30,000 received will have to be in all three areas. Anything under \$30,000 recipient they will not be required to be spent in all three.

Looking forward to seeing the Governor's funds for infrastructure and for E-rate.

### Data Hubs

Data Hubs have some money still available and believe the Governor is going to assign funds toward this project. Don Dailey, Project Manager will be presenting at the MSBO Conference.

The data hubs are starting to gain quite a bit of momentum, and here are the updates.

**1) Onboarding Progress** – As of today we have 60 districts live on the data hubs. There are 267 districts signed up that have a SIS that is capable of integrating, which represent a potential of 30% of districts and 43% of students. If we can connect the remaining 207 signed-up districts this school year, we will be well on our way. Here are notes on how each SIS is integrating:

- a. **PowerSchool** – Easiest to configure API integration. Quite often can be completely integrated in 2-4 hours.
- b. **MISTAR** – These are integrated via XML files, with Oakland and Wayne handling the configuration work.
- c. **Skyward** – Has switched to an API that requires configuration of an ExComm server. Due to this, we've seen a slowdown in Skyward districts onboarding. We have started to see movement in this since the first of the year, and hope to see these moving forward quickly.
- d. **Edupoint Synergy** – This system is configured via an API, and we are currently working out a few bugs with the vendor. Configuration can take 4-8 hours.
- e. **SunGard eSchoolPlus** – This system is configured via XML files, and is the most limited in data capability at this point. Configuration can take 2-6 hours.
- f. **Infinite Campus** – This vendor is not yet providing integration, but API development work has now started. Expectations are for testing this spring with full readiness by the fall.

**2) Documentation Request** – We are looking for a documentation person to create end-user documentation to help with various pieces of the data hub processes. Ideally, it would be great if we could contract with an ISD for the use of existing staff where there was some excess capacity that could be allocated. Depending upon availability, we could work with a few people to divide and conquer the work. A rate hasn't been set, but we can be flexible on the amount.

**3) Report Writing Request** – Similar to the documentation piece, we would like to build capacity to write reports in SQL Server Reporting Services for use in the data hubs. Our hope is to identify ISDs who have existing capacity so that we keep our development dollars in state and supporting ISDs rather than contracting them out. We would be able to provide non-sensitive sample databases and a report template that would allow for expedited development and easier integration into the data hub environment. A training would be provided to cover the details of how to properly design a report so that it would work in the data hubs. We have one ISD that has expressed some interest, but hope to have a few more.

4) **Contacts for vendors** – We have offered incentive funding to the top 3 vendors in most categories, and the top 10 in the assessment area, in order to increase adoption of the Ed-Fi API for the data hubs. We are in need of good contacts, still, for the following vendors. If you have a name, email address, and/or phone number for anyone who you feel would be helpful, please pass that along.

- a. MealTime (CLM Group)
- b. Alexandria Library Management (COMPanion)
- c. Horizon Library Management (SirsiDynix)
- d. VersaTrans (Tyler Technology)
- e. Transfinder

5) **GMEC Agreement Status** – As you may be aware, there have been concerns raised about the GMEC region agreement, as it is different from the other 4 data hubs. In particular, it contains additional limitation of liability language on behalf of Oakland Schools, the GMEC region data hub host. While this does not affect the insurance coverage or other hosting details, it is something that we are working to address. There are two parallel paths that are in motion. The first is to identify increased insurance and sublimit coverage that will better protect for the larger numbers of both districts and students in the GMEC region. The goal is to establish a baseline insurance amount per 1,000 students that can then be applied to all data hubs. The second is some legislative language that would address ISD liability for hosting in general from the state perspective. The results of those two items will dictate what the revised language will look like. New insurance information is expected in early February, but no timeline on the legislative piece has been identified so far. For now, districts are free to participate or not based on their comfort level with the agreement. We do have many districts in the region signed up and functional, but understand that others will hold off until this is resolved.

6) **SSO** – We currently have two good sized regions (EUP and REMC 1) with their Active Directories federated with the data hubs. This means that users in those regions are able to log into the data hub cockpit and dashboard applications with their AD credentials rather than the MiDataHub logins we create. We would like to federate additional regional or large ADs. If you have a regional implementation and would like to federate your directory for the data hub SSO, please let me know and we will allocate resources to assist.

7) **Roadshows** – We have been doing data integration roadshows at a number of ISDs, including Charlevoix-Emmet and COPESD, Saginaw and Midland, Ingham, and Washtenaw. We have several more scheduled in December and January, but would be happy to do more. Please contact me if you are interested in having an overview and/or configuration training at your ISD.

8) **Integrations for Testing and Usage** – We currently have some vendors who are looking to test their integrations. Please let us know if you have districts who would be interested.

a. **DIBELS Next** – Ready to test the ability to populate student, staff and schedule information into DIBELS Next from a district SIS via the data hubs. This would also apply to the PELI assessment. Currently we have Saline Area Schools lined up for testing. We could use a few more.

b. **Schoolzilla** – Offers data warehouse and dashboard functionality that offers actionable data. They are developing their connector and would like to pilot that connectivity with districts. In exchange for piloting, they will offer at least 6 months of free usage. To learn more and sign up as a potential pilot, please visit <https://schoolzilla.com/trig-pilot/>.

c. **USA Scheduler** – This vendor provides an alternate master schedule builder. They are able to populate current year student, staff and schedule data into their system so that a master schedule can be created for an upcoming year. This would be useful for districts who struggle with native SIS master schedule functionality.

d. **Bright Arrow Alert** – This was our first certified system and can be used for production alert functionality.

e. **Edify** – This is a Learning Management System that has an integration ready for testing, with ability to write back assessment data. Currently Tahquamenon Area Schools is the first test case, but we could use a few more.

9) **Timeline** – A new page has been added to the TRIG website that details the timeline for development of new features. That page can be found at <http://22itrig.org/activities/data-integration/timeline/>.

10) **Dashboards** – We have deployed dashboard servers at all 5 data hub hosting locations, and those servers are now fully functional. Depending on the data that is being provided from the SIS, the dashboards are showing attendance, discipline, grades, and Early Warning System data. As more data is added, such as assessments, other parts of the dashboard will be of use. Right now, the dashboards are only enabled for cockpit users who are District Superintendents and Technical Contacts. At some point, when districts are ready, we will enable functionality to create logins for users identified in the SIS, such as teachers, counselors, principals, etc. We have a Dashboard and Actionable Data Workgroup that is assisting us with identifying ways to use and improve these dashboards in an actionable manner.

#### **Roundtable of Ideas for future meetings**

- METL leadership group to explain their role and how they can help get information to the LESA.

Case Study - discuss a hack through Microsoft system and then affected the network. A local district had this happen. – Sharpsteen

- Practical solutions for Disaster Recovery –Accorso
- DNS structures made resilient –Sharpsteen

- Green Pupil Accounting – work of Tom Johnson and MPAAA
- Teacher evaluation systems is not really addressing the tech folks. Maybe we should be proactive and create one – Sharpsteen
- Legislative update – use Peter Spadafore

#### **SIG Technology Courses Update - Zick**

- STEM Makers
- Google updates
- MSBO Certification Classes – Overview of School Finance for Technology and Organizational Technology Audits.

#### **Conferences Update**

- MACUL Conference – March 15-17, 2017 – Detroit
- MSBO Conference – May 2-4, 2017 – Grand Rapids – Registration will be available in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Curriculum and Technology Summit**

Timing of Event and Place – moving into September or early October and more central to the state

Topics – not finalized

Share ideas with Fred Sharpsteen

Webb asked about Microsoft SDS. He is rolling it out at Fremont. Zick mentioned she has it set up but not sure the teachers are using it. [Classroom.microsoft.com](http://Classroom.microsoft.com), [sds.microsoft.com](http://sds.microsoft.com), [edu.uservice.com](http://edu.uservice.com)

Webb motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kopkau  
MSBO