Interview Questions

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| Vision, planning, policy | What strategies have you found successful in technology planning integrated into the schools/districts strategic planning (e.g. LCAP, or per your state) process?  Crafting a vision that communicates the overarching themes and initiatives and then moving the structure and processes that give stakeholders a chance consider, consult and provide feedback.  Start with “why”. The “what” can be mandated but the “how” needs to be consulted in order empower those who will ultimately implement.  Training in or time is required to learn and adopt.  Late adopters require a proof of concept in order to fully commit. Having pilot projects improve chances of district-wide buy-in and adoption.  Some districts are moving towards blended PD and allow teachers access to instruction on their own time and well as just in time access to tutorials.  Building capacity with ambassadors, typically three at each site to promote, instruct and support.  What have we done to plan for long-term sustainability of technology and staying up-to-date?  Leasing program often ensure that the budget has been earmarked and affordable buyout programs allow wiggle room between refresh cycles. Typically, in a 5 year lease, you can stretch the life of the technology.  Proper planning and budget allows greater sustainability as the finances have already been reserved and allocated.  BYOD programs are also effective. The district can support the infrastructure while the clients or end users provide the personal device.  How often do does school policies need to be reevaluated? JO Digital Code of Conduct revision for next year?  Policy is reviewed annually and changes are made as needed. The district policy override the school-based policy. The digital code of conduct is also annually and as needed. Both policies are reviewed through the tech committee and then passed on to staff committee and then staff organization for approval.  What existing support do we have from stakeholders? What would you define as equitable access for staff and students?  PAC is very support with money. As well, we have a large donation from a benefactor who is an alumni.  Equal and equitable access for all would be giving every staff and student the same device. Or the same device for staff and perhaps a cheaper machine for students.  If the ministry purchased a bulk and not supply money for textbooks or learning resources, this is easily achievable. |
| Students, teachers, community | Share ONE significant community involvement activity that added value in your technology planning or visioning in the school/district.  Creating book talks video podcast to support and promote literacy.  Will there be a plan to increase mandatory professional development for all teachers to help with integrating technology into the classroom? Curriculum and lesson planning? Assessment?  Yes, ministry is pushing forward with a plan to mandate PD around the new curriculum and the skills required to teach it. That said, there is little sign of direct support and the most likely scenario is the responsibility will fall on the shoulders of the district and senior management.  Is there a plan to reach out to the community and business members for further support instead of regular staff?  No, it is a conflict of interest and a violation of labour policies with local union to bring in a third party to perform instruction. That said, third party trainers are common for provided PD opportunities where internal support or expertise is lacking.  How would you define technology literacy and fluency language?   * can confidently play and explore without fear * use the tools to communicate * use tools to create content * have a positive attitude towards the use * able to navigate the web * being able to manage and organize files * critical analyse resources and information * ethical use and conduct online * discerning, self-regulating, skilled searcher and researcher * understand themselves and their level of ability in relations to the global standard |
| Hardware and integration supports | Which of the following has been the greatest challenge to establish sustainable technology support for teaching and learning: a) robust wireless, b) cloud based network, c) internet filtering. Why?  At present, privacy laws have been to greatest obstacles and then the willingness of teachers to allow devices into the classroom. Finding a common language around the pedagogy and using technology for teaching and learning.  Using practice and creating an environment that engages learning while effectively and efficiently leveraging the technology.  Do we have plans to add more positions for technology support?  The is a will and desire but no funding or rather prioritized funding to increase support.  When do you see the school/district reaching 1:1(technology available per student)? What type of device/equipment is a priority?  I think 2020 the earliest, but realistically 2025. The device won’t matter and it will be the students’ families buying the devices and district will provide loaners. |
| Access gap | How have you addressed the access technology gap for all students in your school/district?  The mini school is 1:1 and byod. The mainstream students bring their own mobile devices and those who are without can access technology at our learning commons.  What are some of the issues you have encountered in doing so?  Rare but damaged equipment. management issues in terms of who’s responsibility is it to sign out and in as well as charge and/or troubleshoot. |
| Standards aligned | To what extent have you been involved with providing sustainable teaching and learning pedagogy (e.g. how content is taught) is integrated with web 2.0 tools (e.g. Google Apps for Education)?  I teach students at the school. In the district, I teach teachers one-to-one, in small groups, school-wide. I teach a variety of tools, platforms, apps, curricular goals.  I support Google apps for ed. iPads at elementary, Surface Pro and Macbook at the secondary level.  I have supported blended learning and project based learning.  How often are teachers made aware of technology standards?  Rarely, they were sent out but with no formal assessment or performance review, there is no real urgency to be aware or adopt. |
| Funding | Where do you find your greatest challenges, funding your staff’s technology professional learning plan and/or refresh plan (e.g. replacing equipment/software)?  Budgeting is a concern but this is typically up to the district to decide. The school plan is a guideline for the school but the district decides and the school is not typically involved in the decision making process.  That said, there are funds available to school administrators to decide on replacements or one-offs.  Are there available grants to support technology advancements in our school/district?  Sometimes, there are grants that come from businesses like Bestbuy but they are more of a PR campaign and inconsistent at best. |