ISC General Meeting -- Minutes
Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 9:30 a.m. Academy Building

Presentation: Technology in the District

Mr. Brian Cote, LMSD Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Data Analysis and Business Education, Mr. George Frazier, LMSD Director of Information Systems, and Ms. Megan Shafer, LMSD Senior Director of Policy, Personnel and School Programs, attended the ISC November general program to discuss technology issues and concerns with district parents and guardians.

Brian Cote began the discussion by explaining several innovative techniques being introduced in classrooms. Through professional development programs, teachers have learned how to "flip their classrooms". This strategy allows teachers to use classroom time for collaborative work and their students to problem solve with guidance from teachers. Flip your Classroom: Reach Every Student in Every Class Every Day, by Bergman and Sams, is a resourse that district teachers have used and provides additional information about this classroom strategy. Ms. Beth Hampton, Tech Integration Teacher at LMHS, has developed a Flipped Classroom kit that district teachers are using. In addition, teachers are utilizing "Live Binder" – digital binders that allow teachers to record their lessons for students to "attend" at home. Approximately 100 teachers at the secondary level have adopted elements of this classroom strategy. If you are interested in seeing the an example of strategy being used in a sixth grade Social Studies curriculum, please visit the BC Team 6-2 eboard (under Ms. Tzabari), click on Social Studies, and then "Flipped Videos by Lesson".

In addition, LMSD is running a pilot program using Blackboard, a learning management system that could streamline information currently in eBoards and Moodles.
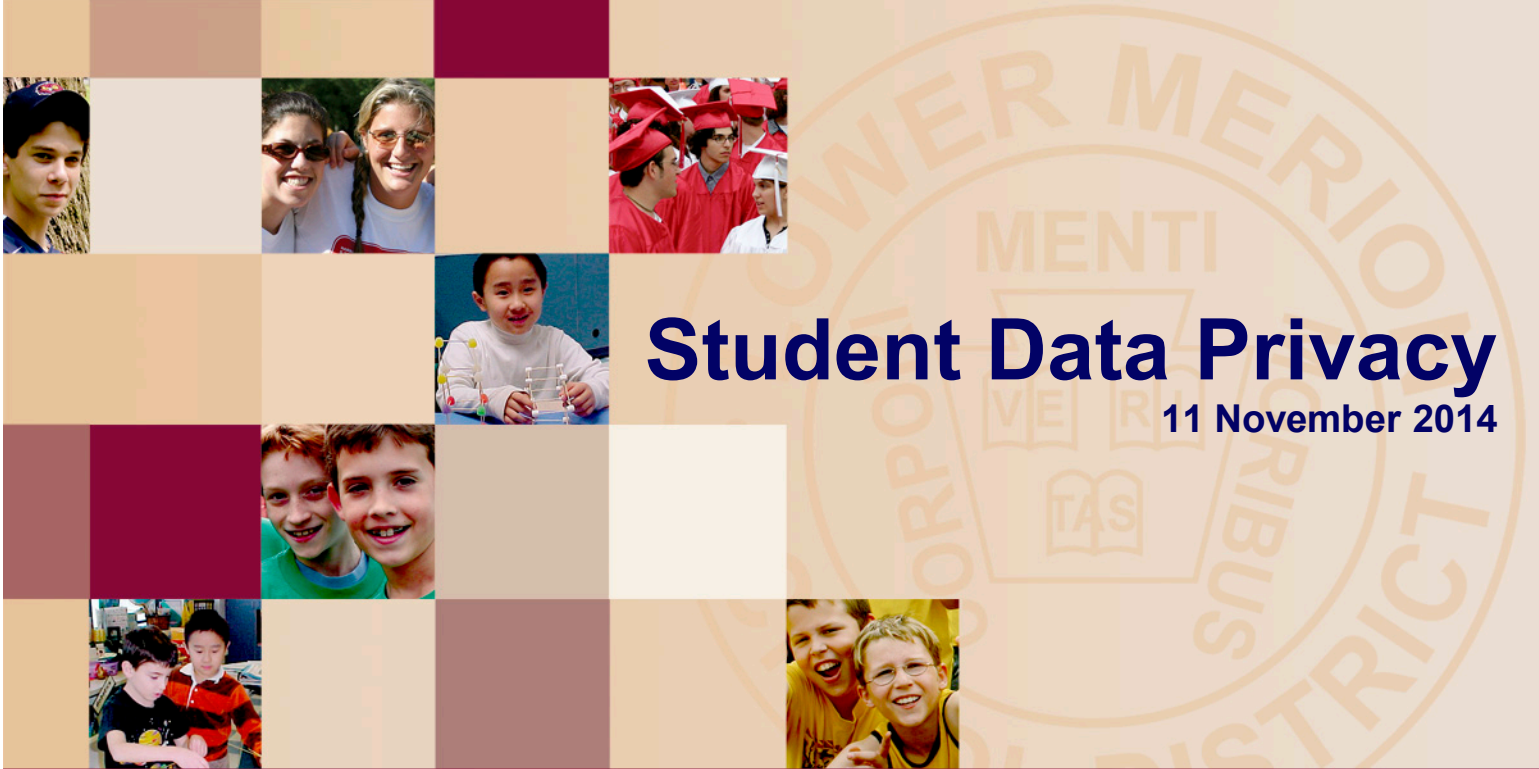
Finally, in response to a question about snow days and how these classroom strategies could be used, Mr. Cote shared that PA Department of Education will allow districts to have up to 5 Flexible Instructional Days. As stated on the PA Dept. of Education website, "Flexible Instructional Days (FIDS) employ non-traditional strategies to provide a

continuity of instruction on regularly-scheduled school days during which circumstances necessitate an alternate approach". The district is not yet prepared to use FIDS, but it will be an area for further consideration.

The next topic discussed by George Frazier was "Student Data Privacy". Megan Shafer introduced Mr. Frazier and emphasized that under the direction of Mr. Frazier, LMSD is at the forefront of school districts' efforts to protect the data and privacy of students.

A copy of Mr. Frazier's Powerpoint presentation is included with these minutes. There is also additional information on the LMSD website under Technology, including a list of online educational service providers.

Finally, while the "Student Data Privacy " presentation focused on privacy issues in the school environment, Mr. Frazier does offer a program each year (usually in September) – "Home Technology Management 101 for Parents & Guardians" - that addresses a wide variety of technology issues including data privacy in the home environment. This program is publicized in school newsletters as well as on the district website.

Student Data Privacy

11 November 2014

LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education

COPPA

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) puts parents in control over what information is collected from their young children online.

- COPPA applies to operators of commercial websites and online services (including mobile apps) directed to children under 13 that collect, use, or disclose personal information from children.

- An operator of a website or online service   is not required to obtain consent directly from parents, and can presume that the school's authorization for the collection of students' personal information is based upon the school having obtained the parents' consent.

Notice to Parents/Guardians

Annual FERPA notice

Annual and Individual COPPA notices
   Verifiable Consent (Opt-In letters)

Review of Online Service Providers

Policy limiting types of data exported to online service providers

Review of online service providers' privacy policies:

- Prohibiting disclosure of information
- Enabling parents/guardians to review data
- Enabling parents/guardians to have data deleted

More Information

District Policies--

108: Adoption of Curriculum Materials

216: Procedure for the Administration of Student Records

258: Achievement Tracking Services and Products

816: Web Content Development and Hosting

More Information

FERPA General Guidance for Parents--

http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/parents.html

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA): What Parents Should Know--

http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/media-resources/protecting-consumer-privacy/kids-privacy-coppa

GEORGE FRAZIER
FRAZIER@LMSD.ORG