



Making Connections Across the Assabet Valley Collaborative

MassCUE Conference
October 29, 2009

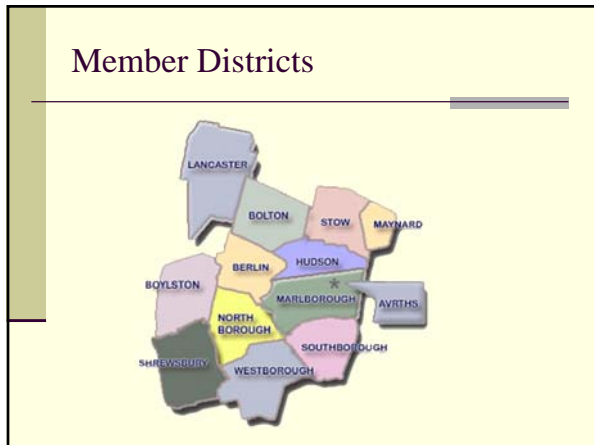
Presenters

- Bob Cornacchoili, Shrewsbury
- Cathy Cummins, Assabet Valley Collaborative
- Jon Green, Maynard
- Cynthia Larsen, Nashoba
- Paul Mara, Berlin/Boylston
- Kathy Martin, Westborough
- Ellen Schuck, Hudson
- Jean Tower, Northborough/Southborough

Audience Participants

- Teachers
- Instructional Technology Specialists
- Library/Media Specialists
- Technology Directors/Coordinators
- Principals
- Curriculum Directors
- Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents
- Other positions







History of Technology Group

- Began meeting in fall FY05
- Meet once a month
- Had worked together through other professional organizations or other professional development opportunities
- Saw a need to communicate
- Committed to meeting face-to-face
- Each member brings a different area of expertise to the table
- Honorarium for chair of group

Technology Infrastructures

- Staffing model
- Common applications
 - iPass/Power School
 - eSped
 - Exchange email servers/hosted email with MEC
 - Destiny
 - Snap/Healthmaster
 - Calling Notification systems
- Network infrastructure challenges
 - Email archiving
 - Management of data
 - WAN connections
 - Content Filter
 - Firewall
 - Bob's wireless connections in other districts



Group Values – We value/believe

- a sense of humor
- the group, the meetings, and our time together.
- the group can enhance our individual and collective professional practice.
- participation in this group brings value and benefit to our communities and our students.
- active participation in the Collaborative (in this and in other groups) provides opportunities for initiatives and projects that we could not achieve in our districts independently.

Group Values – We value/believe

- the diversity of the group adds value and relevance to our work.
- our similarities in values, goals, and commitments are greater than our differences in our roles and the sizes, demographics, infrastructure, and funding of our districts
- the Collaborative is a vital organization that is both an extension of us and a partner in our work on behalf of all students in our communities.

Group Norms

- Open and honest communication
- Instant feedback
- Group confidentiality and trust
- Idea sharing
- Problem solving
- Brainstorming
- Sharing best practices
- Follow through



Benefits and Challenges

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Working unit to complete tasks in a year | ■ Balancing priorities of the group vs. priorities of the district |
| ■ Shared due diligence | ■ Not 100% participation |
| ■ Shared presentations | ■ Turnover of group members |
| ■ Information sharing | ■ Being off task |
| ■ Unified voice with vendors | ■ TIME |
| ■ Familiarity with districts | ■ Working with Bob wanting wireless infrastructure |
| ■ Shared PD | |
| ■ Being off task | |

Current Initiatives

- ✓ MassCUE Conference
 - Volume Discounts
 - Grants
 - Web 2.0 Standardization
 - Policy Development
 - Professional Development
 - Online Collaboration Spaces

Policy Development

- Record Retention
- Acceptable Use
- Email Guidelines
- Media Release



Professional Development Initiatives

- Shared PD days for over 13 years
- Purchased a bank of seats from pdPoint
- Shared seats with Collaborative through a 170B grant in FY09
- District in-service trainings – open seats
- Training of online facilitators through EDC
- Online pd - Moodle and Elgg
- Mandated trainings



Continuation of Networking

11/18 – Westborough
12/16 – Berlin/Boylston
1/27 – Maynard
2/24 – Shrewsbury
3/17 – Location needed
4/28 – Northborough
5/19 – Location needed
6/16 – Luncheon 11:30 – TBA



Questions and Answers