

Caveland Assistive Technology Team  
Meeting December 5, 2006

11th Street Alternative School  
Bowling Green KY  
9:00 am

Paula welcomed all members and opened the meeting with a review of the agenda.

We discussed the project earlier named "Test Scores and Dollars". Connie Miller (Warren County) shared a draft of a letter to principals concerning developing a universal plan to address assistive technology equipment needs/purchases within districts. Paula is on a state committee with eleven consultants and shared the project with them at her last meeting. The committee thought the project to be beneficial and added a few recommendations for our consideration. They suggested our project provide a break-down of assistive technology into elementary, middle and high school level; develop a card/file at each school with assistive technology available and an explanation of possible uses for specific/proposed student needs; and have the assistive technology available to try.

The team discussed perceived benefits of the project such as within system transition of materials/devices and students; development of guidelines to insure smooth transitions (devices follow student; new teacher/staff training; ownership issues); accountability and inventory so staff knows what is available in their classroom and district; IEP team can be well-informed when considering student's assistive technology needs and include such on conference summary.

In addition to these benefits, the team discussed issues related to identification and definition of devices; control of the technology (C/O, classroom teacher, department head); storage of unused devices; state recommendations for software; and differing levels of knowledge of assistive technology by district staff.

We decided we would outline the project with a focus on team completion dates for each step. The discussion was tabled until after our 10:00 Web Conference.

Due to technical problems, the web conference was not convened.

The development outline for the assistive technology project as determined by the members follows.

I. By January meeting

Talk to DOSE, DTC, or other authority (Paula may spearhead this through a letter to all DOSE) to make aware of the need and benefits of the project.

II. By January meeting

Develop district committees – size may vary in by district.  
Convey benefits to teachers and staff, invite recommendations for committee membership from DOSE, provide incentives for membership

Committee meets, project explained, direct members to inventory forms

III. By March meeting

Inventory emailed to Paula Borland

Include a compilation of broken A.T. with company name and we will try to find local repair contacts.

IV. At March meeting

Compiled master inventory will be divided by categories/uses and team will develop a catalogue including identification, definition of use, suggestions of device match to student need.

V. Beyond

Training on equipment

VI. Wish list for all by level

The team discussed and developed the inventory form for the project.

Sensory Room presentation by Leslie Brauer (Glasgow Independent) and Nancy Hurt (Barren County). Chad McEwan taped the session. It will be available on the Caveland site for viewing.

Paula Borland (CESC) and Melissa Moss (Barren) presented an overview of KAMC. To date there are 1479 books available in the digital format.

Paula Borland demonstrated software created by RJ Cooper who is an inventor, vendor and advocate for people with disabilities. He will be coming to Bowling Green in August. She will contact us about a perspective student for a case study for Mr. Cooper's session while here. RJ Cooper's website is a valuable resource. We had a chance to explore his CD.

Paula then showed a product called Smart Navigator. It is a wireless mouse designed for people with limited motor abilities. A small pea-sized sticker is placed on a person's glasses, forehead, or hat which activates the pointing device. These are available for use at all Unemployment offices in Kentucky.

Paula then shared a video from her group's e-train project titled "Success with Read and Write Gold". This was a powerful testimonial from teachers (general and special education); students of elementary through university level, general and special education; Principals, and the Kentucky Commissioner of Education. The teachers, students and staff in the video provided many ways the W&RGold software program can be used on a daily basis to enhance instruction.

The group adjourned at 2:30.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2007

Submitted by Leslie Brauer

Glasgow Independent Schools