Blended Education Instructional Delivery System

Clayton County Area Superintendents and Legislators

Presented by Allan Nelson, Facilitator

Joint Education Appropriations Committee Presentation

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Clayton County Area Superintendents and Legislators

- Allan Nelson, Supt., and Facilitator, Clayton Ridge CSD, Guttenberg
- Galen Reinsmoen, Supt., Central CSD, Elkader
- Dale Crozier, Supt., MFL, MarMac, Monona
- Ottie Maxey, Supt., Postville CSD, Postville
- Cathy Molumby, Supt., Valley CSD, Elgin
- Ed Klamfoth., Supt. Ed-Co CSD, Edgewood
- Matt O'Loughlin, Starmont Supt., Arlington
- Jim Patera, Supt., Oelwein CSD, Oelwein
- Jim Rothlisberger, Supt., N. Fayette, West Union, and Turkey Valley, Jackson Junction
- Brian Schenjahn, State Representative, Arlington
- Roger Thomas, State Representative, Elkader

Problem Statement

How do we reallocate the state resources we have to provide the most efficient delivery of educational opportunities possible to the greatest number of students and still maintain the integrity of our very large rural school districts?

Traditional Sharing

- Sharing teachers/Sharing Students (usually with adjacent districts)
- Establish Regional Academies (RAMS Center at Oelwein is an example)
- Sharing with Community Colleges (contracted and PSEO)
- Sharing using the ICN (synchronous limitations due to scheduling and room availability)
- Operational sharing
- Online learning for atypical students (AP classes, credit recovery, courses not available locally)

Nontraditional Sharing

- Distance education, online, or e-learning in the mainstream (synchronous and asynchronous communication capabilities)
- Blended education (combination of distance learning and distance education)

To learn more about distance education, we asked for input from…

- Gwen Nagel/Arlan Thorson, Iowa Learning Online
- Marcel Kielkuscki, Kirkwood HSDL Coordinator
- John Carver, Supt., Van Meter CSD
- Rhonda Sheeley, Norma Thiese, Deb Henkes, Media and Technology Specialists from Keystone AEA
- Allan Nelson, Supt., Clayton Ridge CSD
- Mike Meeker, Dave Seitz, and Lisa Nikkel, Apple Inc.
- Chris Guzek and Gordon Freedman, Blackboard, Inc.
- Susan Patrick, International Association for K-12 Online Learning

What we

Don't stop Information Technology (IT) at the …

Why let IT in the school? Let's find out… (5 min video)
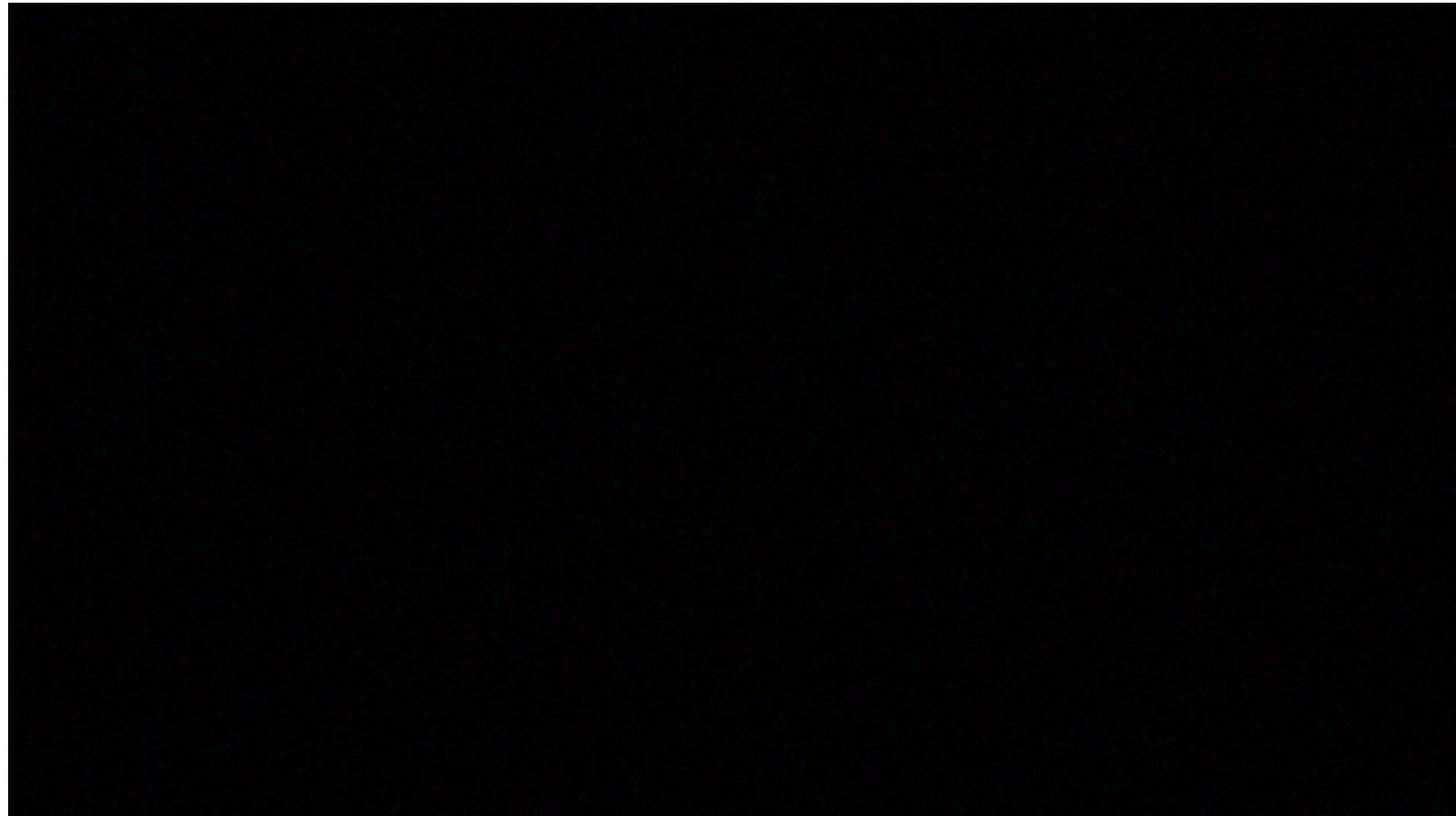
Blended Education and Online Learning…

- Should be one of many instructional delivery systems in Iowa (not the "silver bullet")

- Serves as a viable means to deliver instruction to students and professional development to administrators and teachers.

- Compliments face-to-face instruction with resources, activities, collaboration and coaching online.

- Minimizes the schedule and space limitations inhibiting district-to-district sharing as experienced with the ICN.

Blended Education and Online Learning (cont.)

- Decreases dependence on "chance" sharing opportunities with neighboring districts within driving distance.

- Improves student engagement and student achievement due to a dual learning platform of paced and differentiated learning online.

- Creates a level playing field for all students to have similar learning opportunities in Iowa.

- Expands the curriculum offerings beyond the local school course catalog.

What can Blended Education do for Iowa Students?
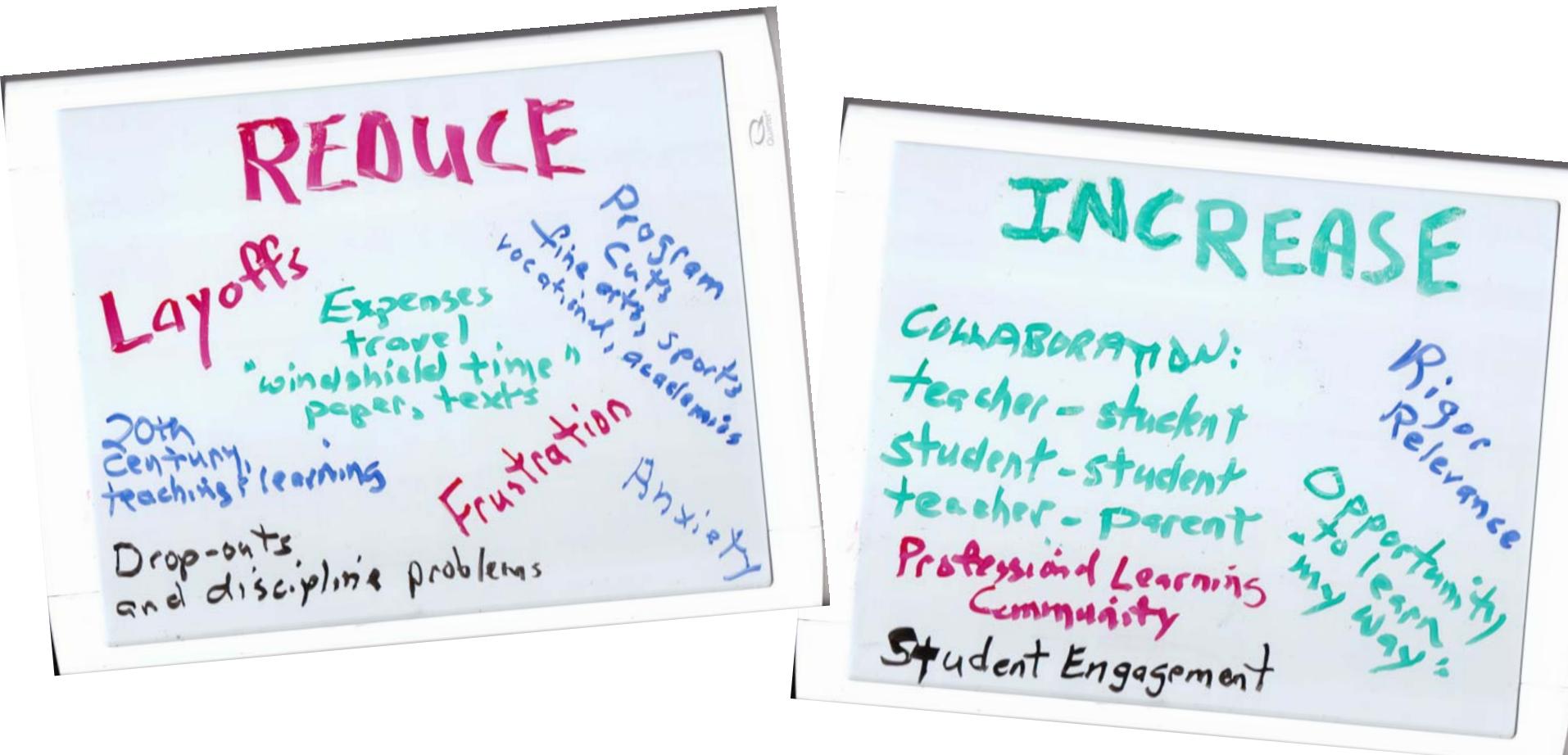
Some quotes worth hearing…

"We do not recommend professional development in technology in isolation of other skills… it is much more appropriate to model the use of technology as part of learning instructional practices." D. Hansen, DE Professional Development Administrator 12/15/09.

Quotes worth hearing…

"Those of us at ILO would certainly agree that Blended Learning is proving to be a very desirable route for delivery of online content." Gwendolyn Nagel, Director, Iowa Learning Online.

Quotes on finding information about blended education and online learning…

Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning is the very best source of information, and America's Digital Schools Report may be a useful source as well. The other resource to check is Technology Counts - an annual report by Education Week. The Online Learning Policy and Practice study done by the Center for Digital Education may also be helpful. "Collecting data and comparative research on blended learning is expensive and not funded by anyone or tracked by the federal or state governments" Susan Patrick, CEO and President iNACOL, 1/19/10. International Association of K-12 Online Learning

http://www.inacol.org/

More quotes from believers…

"I truly believe online learning, in and out of the traditional classroom, will transform are abilities to meet the needs of every child." Kim Ross, Superintendent, Houston, MN. Resident student count 450, total count with online learners is close to 2000.

A quote from the private sector …

"There is a mismatch on how students and adults use information technology outside of the school and how information technology is used inside the school." Gordon Freedman, Blackboard Inc., Vice President of Education Strategy

Vision

All students will be digital content users, and more importantly, digital content producers. Students in our middle schools and high schools will require partial or full 1:1 computing environments to collaborate online with teachers and student peers at a distance using blended ed. Our schools will reallocate resources across Iowa rather than cut jobs and student learning opportunities.

How will we achieve the Vision?

- Continue to provide professional development for the Iowa Core Curriculum and model technology literacy skills resulting in a digital-ready workforce here in Iowa.

- Use the advantages of synchronous and asynchronous communication to diminish 20th Century barriers (i.e., schedules, scarce or barred IT capabilities).

How to achieve the Vision… (cont.)

- Invite business and industry in Iowa, US and the world to meet the best digital workforce ever assembled – capitalize on our rich fiber network here in Iowa.

- Continue using Local Option Sales Tax and Physical Plant Equipment Levy capabilities to finance needed information technology, and work with financially strapped districts to secure Modified Allowable Growth for start-up costs.

How to achieve the Vision… (cont.)

- Provide technical assistance to secure course management systems -- synched with student performance measures demonstrating what we want students to: know, do, believe, and feel about their role as a member of a global community of learners.

- Replace seat time with competency-based mastery of essential concepts and skills.

How to achieve the Vision… (cont.)

- Be prepared for new jobs not yet invented; public video reviewers/archival specialists, online course designer, digital device maintenance service/repair person, virtual PD coach, digital media specialists, digital surveillance officers, global school twinning coordinator… (your guess is as good as mine).

How to achieve the Vision… (cont.)

- Maintain current freedom and flexibility to encourage risk for innovation and invention.

- Maintain local board control to share educational and operational costs; uphold the LEA's right to develop and exercise contracts with other LEA's and AEA's to meet district and student needs.

- Support voluntary participation in blended education and online learning. Growth occurs best by modeling 21st Century pedagogy and sharing our leadership experiences with others.

- Maintain public ownership of intellectual products produced from public resources.

Begin building the future today!

- A sensible LEA blended education plan might begin with innovative examples from K-12 school districts, community colleges, and universities here in Iowa. Some of our educational leaders/institutions already use blended education and/or online learning using robust course management systems *(Moodle, Blackboard...)* and videoconferencing platforms (*Adobe Connect Pro, Perfect Meetings...*).

- None of us really see the future, however some visionaries see it better than most, seek them out for ideas, encouragement, and leadership.

Final thoughts

For the most part, we are doing something that has not yet been experienced in mainstream K-12 education.   All publics, political bodies, associations, and citizen groups will be called upon to nourish creativity, allow for risk-taking, and begin with those willing to take the leap of faith. It is a leap to the 21st Century.

For a copy of this slide presentation and access to supporting resources contact:

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(Blog under construction – i3 Innovation Grant announcement soon for interested partners, please check Blog periodically.)