Title of Session: School Administrators' Forum: SAFE-T
Moderator: Charles Merritt
Title of File: 20040404safet
Date: April 4, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

CharlesM: You all might want to compose an intro that says where, what level of ed you teach or hope to teach and interest in tech (plus anything else you want to share)
CharlesM: I invited the members last week, but they may have forgotten. We'll design this time around those of us that show up.
ErinPG joined the room.
KaraNK: My name is Kara King and I am a Pre service teacher. I am currently enrolled in the teaching program at the University of Houston. I am here to gain a different perspective on technology in schools besides a teacher perspective.
ErinPG: Hey Kara and Laura
KaraNK: Hi Erin.
ErinPG: Has it already started?
LauraCo: I am a PUMA student from the University of Houston. I would like to teach first, second, or third grade. I am eager to learn more about technology.
KaraNK: We are beginning intros now Erin.
LauraCo: Hi Erin
CharlesM: I am assistant principal and former Spanish teacher and tech coordinator at Palo Alto High School in California. I am responsible for tech programs there.
ErinPG: My name is Erin and I am a preservice teacher from the University of Houston and would like to find out more ways to use technology in the classroom.
CharlesM waves hi to Erin
ErinPG: hey everyone
RandaGst2: I am a Media Specialist in a middle school in SC.
CharlesM: South Carolina or So California?

RandaGst2: South Carolina, of course
ErinPG: Cool. What do media specialists do?

CharlesM: I was just kidding you.
BJ laughs...never take that for granted, Randa.
BJ: I'm in PA and people ask me if that's Palo Alto, CA
CharlesM: I am so glad you all could join me today. Shall I explain SAFE-T?
RandaGst2: Please
KaraNK: Please do.
CharlesM: BJ and I are old friend, BTW
ErinPG: yes please
LauraCo: Yes, please.
CharlesM: She is a great source of info on Tapped In so feel free to ask her the tech questions
CharlesM: BJ, we have to get you out here to Palo Alto one day.
ErinPG: sounds great

CharlesM: SAFE-T is a group to address the needs of schools as we look at tech as an essential part of education
ErinPG: ok
CharlesM: The group was designed to let administrators and others discuss the complexities of school policy for tech such as...
CharlesM: discipline...
CharlesM: security...
CharlesM: funding...
CharlesM: and student information safety (hence the name).
CharlesM: Since you all are preservice teachers, we might modify this goal a bit today?
ErinPG: it's ok
RandaGst2: Sure!
ErinPG: U of H puts a lot of emphasis on technology
ErinPG: so we may know a little bit more than expected
KaraNK: That sounds fine, but I still would like to hear about technology from an administrators perspective.
CharlesM: Before everyone arrived, I told Kara that I was curious about Texas ed tech policy...
CharlesM: Could I pick your brains?
KaraNK: Sure
CharlesM: So, I have attended tow major conferences in Texas on ed tech...
CharlesM: One was the NECC in Austin in 1997, i think
CharlesM: The other was NSBA in Dallas in 1999 or thereabout
ErinPG: sure!
ErinPG left the room (signed off).
LauraCo: interesting, tell us about them
CharlesM: Both times I got the impression that the state of Texas has some pretty uniform policies about how tech is used in schools...
CharlesM: Well, the conferences were great, and the organization superb...
CharlesM: (kudos to Texans)
KaraNK: Well, Texas does have state technology standards that both students and teachers must follow.
CharlesM: but what I wanted to know, is if tech use is defined as to methodology or do you have to come up with your own curricula?
KaraNK: No, we have standards that we must integrate into our curriculum
CharlesM: can you give a couple of examples?
ErinPG joined the room.
ErinPG: sorry I'm back
RandaGst2: We look at the ISTE and dovetail them with our own standards for the state and for our district.
ErinPG: ok back to technology in Texas
CharlesM: ISTE runs the NECC conference BTW,
KaraNK: The standards are grade specific, but I can tell you what the teacher responsibilities are
RandaGst2: Oh, didn't know that, thanks
ErinPG: yes

CharlesM: a great organization (in Oregon)

CharlesM: yes, please, Kara

KaraNK: I know that the standards focus how appropriate keyboarding and software application techniques for students.

ErinPG: Kara...are you talking about the standards posted on the 3113 website?

CharlesM: Is an English teacher responsible for keyboarding skills, or is it a keyboarding instructor?

BJ wonders if the Texas tech standards are aligned to the NETS

ErinPG: no the teacher

CharlesM thinks it must be so

LauraCo: the teacher is responsible

ErinPG: most schools do not have a technology instructor

KaraNK: For teachers we are responsible for understanding the best way to integrate technology into our lessons so that the students get the most out of a lesson

CharlesM: Kara, do you know if the standards are the NETS standards

ErinPG: they are

KaraNK: Bj the standards are very similar to the NETS

CharlesM: So, the curriculum comes first, but supporting tech skills are the responsibility of everyone?

ErinPG: NETs sounds familiar

ErinPG: exactly

CharlesM: I first heard about NETS in Austin, as a matter of fact

ErinPG: oh really?

CharlesM: I guess what I'm driving at is whether there is curricular accountability for tech standards and who is accountable

RandaGst2: Our district requires keyboarding for 8th graders, but it seems it should be offered in the 6th grade...

KaraNK: yes, but at the University they are teaching us not only how to integrate technology into lessons, but how to teach students technological applications as well.

ErinPG: true

ErinPG: as late as 8th grade?

ErinPG: we are taught to start them as early as possible

KaraNK: Right now, the general education teachers are mainly responsible for technology

ErinPG: there are keyboarding standards for kinder and 1st right Kara and Laura?

RandaGst2: Kara is right about it being the teachers' responsibility, but if it is on our standardized test, then it is taught.

LauraCo: yes

KaraNK: yes Erin

CharlesM: I think that Texas is more systematic in their approach than California. Schools are a bit left to their own devices here.

ErinPG: that's interesting

KaraNK: Are there set standards for California?

CharlesM: So, the role of the administrator is not just that of accountability, but even policy making here.

ErinPG: oh really?

LauraCo: yes

CharlesM: The tech standards that are best regarded are NETS

ErinPG: what about for other content areas

RandaGst2: it seems so

ErinPG: do you have any standards for those?

CharlesM: But the state has had to back off of its tech standards because it cannot fund technology effectively at this time

LauraCo: that is unfortunate for the students

CharlesM: (the carrot fell off the stick)

KaraNK: As far as following policy, each district sets up specific mandates or rules regarding certain aspects of technology like Internet use and media

ErinPG: as big as California is they can't fund technology in the school?

DamarisP joined the room.

ErinPG: hey Damaris

LauraCo: Hi Damaris

CharlesM: We are having trouble funding the basics at this point.

KaraNK: Hi Damaris

CharlesM waves hi to Damaris

ErinPG: that's interesting

DamarisP: Hi-

LauraCo: what do you think the state will do about this?

CharlesM: we are discussing ed tech policy in Texas and cal.

CharlesM: California has to stabilize school funding first...

CharlesM: we have until June to do so...

LauraCo: do you think that is realistic?

RandaGst2: I thought Cal had tons of $ for education

ErinPG: you would think!

LauraCo: I thought so too.

RandaGst2: How long have y'all been working on this?

CharlesM: then, the governor (Arnold) will have to work with the legislature to place tech in a priority funding for anything to happen.

CharlesM: Cal. is actually one of the worst funded states in ed...

LauraCo: I wonder why that is so.

ErinPG: and Arnold can't help you out with that?

KaraNK: How much exposure to technology do your students have in California?

CharlesM: We are in the bottom quartile, maybe bottom ten states.

RandaGst2: how is that determined?

CharlesM: well, Kara, that's what's so interesting...

ErinPG: yes I would like to know that too

CharlesM: I am in one of the highest performing schools...

ErinPG: are there comps in every class?

ErinPG: what about A/V materials

CharlesM: in California and in the middle of 'Silicon valley'...

CharlesM: So, we have many generous donors...

CharlesM: Apple, HP, Nat. Semiconductor...

ErinPG: That is where it all started

CharlesM: and we are keeping our tech program alive...

CharlesM: but as AP, I find myself doing grant writing to replace what isn't done by the state...

KaraNK: Are any of your tax dollars allocated to technology education?

CharlesM: I think my job may look a bit different from your APs over there.

ErinPG: how so?

CharlesM: Right now, most of our tech money comes either from Feds or donations

LauraCo: in what ways

KaraNK: Wow, this discussion is a real eye opener for me. I feel blessed to be in Texas now!

CharlesM: I wonder if a high school AP would have to woo industry and foundations for technology and operating expenses?

CharlesM: You should

ErinPG: me too! I thought that our tech standards were pretty much like every other states

RandaGst2: I am beginning to appreciate my district, too.

CharlesM: My principal and I meet with community leaders all of the time. I spend far less time in the classroom than I should.

LauraCo: so did I

RandaGst2: That's a shame

KaraNK: I'm not quite sure about high school because my specialization is Early Ed, but I do know that in Texas the administrators woo businesses for grant money.

ErinPG: that shouldn't be how it is.

CharlesM: Let's switch gears a bit... tell me about student info security. Do you discuss this at the university?

ErinPG: yes

LauraCo: yes

DamarisP: yes

KaraNK: yes

ErinPG: do you mean having their information on the computer? or showing their face in pictures?

RandaGst2: middle school here and , yes

CharlesM: At the classroom level, one example is running a project with email...

ErinPG: as far as I know the only information that is computerized is their grades

CharlesM: any special security there?

ErinPG: oh no they don't do that

ErinPG: email is a no no for the students

CharlesM: don't do what, Erin?

ErinPG: just because it is too dangerous

ErinPG: email

KaraNK: In the student handbook that goes home the first day of school all of these topics are addressed and the student's parents must sign and return the forms

DamarisP: no, they don't even allow the students to be on an email server in the school district.

CharlesM: What if you want to do "keypals" with another school?

ErinPG: you can't

ErinPG: the only people who have access to email are the teachers
RandaGst2: not even with special permission?
ErinPG: you can not even log on to any pop net email servers
ErinPG: no
DamarisP: are keypals like penpals through technology?
ErinPG: at least not as far as I know
KaraNK: it depends on what district
ErinPG: yes Damaris
RandaGst2: yes to keypals
ErinPG: isn't that funny!
DamarisP: Ok- I see.
KaraNK: In katy no e mails for students at all, but in Spring students have private accounts
CharlesM: yes, keypals are like penpals; do you know epals.com?
DamarisP: Really? Wow!
ErinPG: I have never heard of it?
ErinPG: in Spring they do?
DamarisP: No, I am not familiar with that Charles.
RandaGst2: tell more
ErinPG: how do they regulate who the students are getting emails from to that account?
CharlesM: You should take a look, just to see the type of projects.
LauraCo: Kara do you think that Katy may allow private accounts one day?
DamarisP: I can really see though where a teacher can implement keypals for certain projects or something like that, but I can also see where it would be detrimental
ErinPG: I know that there are lots of students who are under strict watch
KaraNK: Yes, they are monitored by the teachers... they all get transcripts like we do here
LauraCo: how are they regulated?
ErinPG: the incoming mail may just be too risky
BJ thinks this group should make sure they participate in the Global Project Based Learning discussion on April 22
ErinPG: cool
LauraCo: sounds good
KaraNK: What is it?
CharlesM: I have done keypals projects, but never let the students know each others emails. They all run through me.
BJ: you also should look at the archived transcripts at www.tappedin.org/transcripts
CharlesM: But my high school provides all students with accounts!!
ErinPG: how do they know that someone who is not supposed to be emailing the student is?
KaraNK: Right Charles, that is how it is done in Spring IDS in Texas
ErinPG: High school is ok...but elementary is another story
CharlesM: I agree, Erin, yet our Elem teachers do keypals with Japan
RandaGst2: what do you think about middle
DamarisP: Yeah- because with elementary I would think security needs to be higher - in high school they are more responsible

CharlesM: And the middle schools have keypals in China

DamarisP: Wow.

ErinPG: well when you get up to those grades those students usually have their own email at home so they are familiar with it

KaraNK: Well it's easy to maintain Erin because students only get to use computers five times a month.

CharlesM: But that's Palo Alto

LauraCo: I think middle is ok

RandaGst2: students only get to use computers 5x a day?

ErinPG: oh never mind I don't know where I am going with this

DamarisP smiles

KaraNK: 5 time a month Randa

ErinPG: if they gave that email address to someone who wasn't supposed to have it...how could they regulate that email and nip it in the bud

RandaGst2: so much for sustained learning activities

CharlesM: I think the different practices are interesting and can stimulate creativity

LauraCo: I agree

ErinPG: true

CharlesM: But in the end we all live in our own communities

ErinPG: it is sad that so many safety considerations have to be implemented isn't it?

CharlesM: the trick is to use and adapt what you can

ErinPG: true

RandaGst2: true

KaraNK: every great teacher I've ever known is very flexible!

CharlesM: Well, safety can limit, but the protection of students is very important

RandaGst2: do any of you have "in house' email systems"

ErinPG: what does that mean?

DamarisP: what's that?

LauraCo: what is that?

CharlesM: At Paly (Palo Alto High's nickname) we can an email server with paly.net email accounts for all students

ErinPG: oh that would be cool and safe!

LauraCo: great idea

DamarisP: ok, and you regulate these from your own house?

RandaGst2: Well, like we use groupwise, but you can go global, but we can email only to ur school, if we want to set up a project that way

CharlesM: Randa, do you mean as in closed to the outside?

CharlesM: How do you do that?

ErinPG: oh neat

DamarisP: that would be great! ...then you don't have too much to worry about security

RandaGst2: No, not closed but it is easier to watch

KaraNK: That is similar to what we had in Spring ISD Randa

DamarisP: oh- ok. still nice

DamarisP: wow, Kara. Did you ever see it implemented in the classroom?

RandaGst2: yes, I like it. my tv crew has their own email for the teachers to communicate with them re announcements

LauraCo: interesting

CharlesM: How many of our schools have "acceptable use" agreements that students and parents sign?

CharlesM: (Paly does)

RandaGst2: everyone in our district

KaraNK: no, because I was a substitute, unfortunately I never got to sub for a class that had computer time.... That's very weird considering I was there for three years, but I heard about it from the other teachers.

CharlesM: (In should have said my district does)

RandaGst2: ours looks very legal. I would like to see one written for each school level in a language the students and parents can understand

ErinPG: that would be better than the interruptions we have all day

KaraNK: Both Katy and Spring do

CharlesM nods

LauraCo: I agree with you Randa

CharlesM: Do you all have closed circuit tv programs?

RandaGst2: yes

ErinPG: yes

CharlesM: (either student- or staff-produced)

LauraCo: what are those?

KaraNK: yes

RandaGst2: student

CharlesM: Paly uses a coaxial network to broadcast a student-produced program every day to all classrooms

ErinPG: we have that too

LauraCo: oh nevermind I know what they are!

KaraNK: you know Laura, like they have the morning telecasts at Golbow.

ErinPG: it's an in school tv station they broadcast the announcements from the library

LauraCo: thanks Kara

RandaGst2: it's a lot of fun and addresses so many standards that it is mind blogging

CharlesM: We are thrilled about the curricular benefit, but the security/discipline has become an issue.

LauraCo: in what way?

KaraNK: They did not have that at Spring, and I really like that concept

CharlesM: the advisor is a bit laiseez faire and some of the programs got out of hand...

KaraNK: how?

LauraCo: what programs?

CharlesM: one young man did a segment on how to get kicked out of the library...

KaraNK: oh no!

LauraCo: oh

CharlesM: he brought in a Foreman grill and started making cheese sandwiches...

RandaGst2: you could turn around and use that as a way to model good behavior

RandaGst2: nevermind! I see where he was going!

KaraNK: do you now have special rules in place?

LauraCo: why did they allow him to bring a foreman grill?

RandaGst2: is that to me, Kara

CharlesM: He and I had a long conversation. But his advisor should not have allowed the segment on air.
KaraNK: no, I'm sorry , I meant that for Charles
CharlesM: The librarians did not know they were being taped.
RandaGst2: and they allowed the grill?

DamarisP: oh my goodness- wow.
LauraCo: was the camera hidden?
CharlesM: No they kicked him out, but that is what he wanted of course.
RandaGst2: yeah, how did they do that?
ErinPG: interesting
KaraNK: That sounds like a breakdown in communication and lack of discipline
CharlesM: I think the librarians were distracted by the grill
RandaGst2: I'm sorry but it is really kinda funny
CharlesM: Not surprising I suppose

DamarisP: thanks Randa- I was wondering if I should say that.
CharlesM: It was hard not to laugh;-)
DamarisP: Ok- lol
RandaGst2: me. too
CharlesM: But I had to keep a stern face for the little felon
KaraNK: kids come up with some crazy ideas don't they?
DamarisP smiles
ErinPG: sure do
CharlesM: He had the gall to defend "his art"
RandaGst2: you're kidding?!
KaraNK: wow, what a trickster!
LauraCo: good word Kara
CharlesM: Not at all... quite the picture of chutzpah
CharlesM: (you know Yiddish in tX?)
LauraCo: no
KaraNK: very little
ErinPG: no sir
KaraNK: doesn't that mean guts?
LauraCo: what does chutzpah mean?
ErinPG: haha Laura
CharlesM: Chutzpah might be defined as unmitigated gall
ErinPG: what is that?

DamarisP: yuck- whatever it is!
KaraNK: or as we say in Texas.... guts!
LauraCo: haha Erin
CharlesM: Or bravado; a little arrogance thrown in.
RandaGst2: Our tv show airs live daily with two advisors on the set the entire time. The students love it and vie for a spot. It has become the cool place to be
CharlesM: Ours is too; I just need the advisor to rein them in.
LauraCo: our kids love it too.
ErinPG: Ours is everyday and is aired with the principal and another student
KaraNK: That sounds like a great student motivator Randa

ErinPG: yea

CharlesM: Don't share the cheese sandwich story with your students- may give them ideas;-)

RandaGst2: It is and I watch their grades, but try not to look up discipline records. ..

ErinPG: don't you have the right to know their discipline records?

RandaGst2: I want it to be accessible for those who might not get recog. (positive) elsewhere

CharlesM: So, how many have grades online for students and parents to see?

RandaGst2: Not here

KaraNK: Randa, do only the good students get to go on the broadcast?

KaraNK: by good students I mean the students with good grades?

RandaGst2: no, that's why I don't want to look up the disc. I have the right, but not the desire.

ErinPG: good for you

RandaGst2: No, but if they are failing, I work with them and we set up a system for them to try to improve.

ErinPG: sometimes with the more difficult students I am dying to know their past experiences

CharlesM: I'm going to do a little commercial now...

RandaGst2: Oh yeah, me too, but I usually know their reputation anyway

KaraNK: do they get to go on the broadcast if they make some grade improvement?

ErinPG: true

CharlesM: If any of you want to, you can sign up for the SAFE-T group on Tapped In...

KaraNK: ok Charles

CharlesM: Kara knows how as she did so earlier...

RandaGst2: ok

ErinPG: ok cool

LauraCo: ok

BJ: to do that, click on the SEARCH tab then GROUPS

KaraNK smiles

CharlesM: Also, BJ can help you out...

ErinPG: sounds good

CharlesM: You all may want to form a group of your own too...

BJ: enter SCHOOL ADMINS' FORUM and press the find it button

BJ: you'll get a link to the group ID and a place to join

ErinPG: oh yea, I forgot we can do that

BJ . o O (now you'll have that in your transcript)

CharlesM: Do you all know each other in real time/space?

ErinPG: Laura, Kara, Damaris and I do

LauraCo: yes some of us do

RandaGst2: No, I'm new.

ErinPG: puma wave

CharlesM: you and I are the outlanders, Randa

CharlesM: Puma wave?

ErinPG: it's an inside thing

CharlesM nods

ErinPG: sorry guys
LauraCo: Erin you are too funny

DamarisP: ok puma wave.
LauraCo: Kara where is your wave?
CharlesM: Well, do you have another policy topic you'd like to explore another time?
ErinPG: thanks Laura
KaraNK: I have enjoyed talking to everyone
BJ: the next Admins Forum SAFE-T meeting will be May 2
ErinPG: ok cool
ErinPG: yeah we never do the puma wave anymore
LauraCo: Thank you for your time.
KaraNK: OOH my birthday
CharlesM: Have a class coming up; education law, for example?
ErinPG: yes thank you very much

RandaGst2: This has been fun. Thank you for letting me participate
BJ . o O (and Chuck is going to remember to post a reminder to the group discussion board!)
KaraNK: Next topic??? I'm not quite sure, but I look forward to it
DamarisP: thanks.
CharlesM: If you have any suggestions, we will meet again May 2. I believe we have the San Mateo tech coordinator speaking at that time

DamarisP: yes, Kara, your birthday.
CharlesM: (San Mateo County - part of Silicon valley in Cal)
CharlesM: thank you all for coming!!!!
KaraNK: thanks for explaining that Charles
BJ: thanks, Chuck.
ErinPG: Thanks everyone!
LauraCo: thanks!
CharlesM: Thank you BJ. Round of applause for BJ's help
BJ waves goodnight
CharlesM applauds BJ
KaraNK: I have learned a lot, thanks for giving us a new perspective about technology from another state
ErinPG: yippee!
CharlesM: thank you for yours
KaraNK: thanks Bj!

RandaGst2: Goodbye, now
BJ: you're welcome, Kara
ErinPG: goodbye
KaraNK: you're welcome
CharlesM: Goodbye, Randa
KaraNK: goodbye all!
CharlesM: Goodbye, all