

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #103 (2007-2008)

November 12, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE

ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with the community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities; and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Zangle Student Information System implementation continues to move forward. Phase I of the project is the Fit Gap Analysis, during which the district will determine how well the proposed solution meets District requirements. Phase II is installation and implementation of the system, contingent upon the successful completion of the Fit Gap Analysis. The project is currently scheduled for Secondary schools to "cut over" in August, 2008. Elementary Schools are slated to transition in August, 2009.

Tasks completed or underway since 10/08/07 update:

- IT continues to evaluate the operational impact of running Windows in a Parallel environment for Zangle applications. IT reports some minor issues, but has not encountered any "showstopper" problems. In-district test environments for Zangle have been completed and those applications will be tested on Parallels, which will include on-site testing at one Elementary School, one Middle School, one High School, and one Alternative School.
- IT is investigating an option for providing a Windows environment to Zangle and IFAS users. Through use of distribution servers and Remote Desktop Connection, users could access Front Office and/or IFAS thus eliminating the need to purchase new computers or run Windows in an emulated environment. I/T is recommending that full-time users of IFAS and Zangle use a dedicated Windows computer, because the use of a

distribution server and remote desktop connection may not provide a robust enough connection for these users. Long term testing will be necessary to fully evaluate the capabilities of this solution.

- Documentation from Fit/Gap sessions for Enrollment, Student Related Applications, Behavior, Attendance and Scheduling have been presented to the ASD Leadership Team. The required result is analysis of district business processes and decisions regarding system configuration. The final Fit/Gap session is 11/14-11/18, and will cover the following Modules: Academic History/Transcripts, Mark Reporting, Teacher Connection, Gradebook, Health, Special Education, and English Learner.
- Due to the quantity of time required for thorough analysis of district business processes and system configuration following each Fit Gap session, some project dates related to system configuration and data conversion have slipped. After the Fit Gap process is complete, we will be better able to assess the continued project timeline.
- Faculty data conversion has begun. The initial load of Faculty Data is complete, though further review of data and automated processes are needed. Preparations for Student Demographic data conversion are underway.
- The Project Communications Plan continues to be implemented. A Zangle introductory power-point has been presented to ten different user groups at the secondary level. Zangle was the featured topic in October's "Spread the Word".
- CompuCom has been contracted to provide Windows training to those users who will need Zangle Front Office and IFAS 7i. This is being done in conjunction with the IFAS 7i implementation, which also requires Windows OS.

CC/JW/MM

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