Google Primer

Building Collaboration and Distributive Leadership

Presenter: Dr. Jacek Polubiec
Most people agree that schools need transformational leaders in order to become learning communities that prepare our students, teachers, parents and administrators for the challenges of the future. For that reason, I have always aspired to be a transformational leader and a progressive thinker. I also thought of myself as being an innovator up until......1:01 pm, Monday, July 27, 2009, which is when my first workshop at 2009 Building Learning Communities Conference in Boston began.

One of the first questions Alan November asked us was: "Do your teachers have the right information?" which I immediately translated into self-reflective: "Do I have the right information to be a progressive leader I want to be?". As I kept asking myself this question during the five days I spent in Boston, my answers gradually went from "maybe" to "definitely not" to "WHERE HAVE I BEEN ALL THESE YEARS!?". In other words, for me, BLC09 was an eye-opening and humbling experience as it caused me to rethink many of my earlier ideas and even shift the focus of my studies in the area of urban school leadership.
My Post-BLC09 PLAN OF ACTION

1. Meet with as many administrators, teachers, students and parents as early as possible in order to share my first reactions to the "BLC09 experience".
2. Monitor Twitter activities related to BLC09, TEd21C and current events and my other interests,
3. Show everyone I interact with how to do the above.
4. **Continue using diigo, google docs, tinyurl as often as possible.**
5. Frequently visit and contribute to learning networks I have joined especially TEd21c.
6. Set up one wiki for my academy and another for myself.
7. Create my own learning network
8. Respond to blogs and discussion threads as often as I can.
9. **Use google docs to create** interactive chart to take notes on our experiences with using new (to us) Internet tools. *My teachers will enter the information in the above chart and I will invite other supervisors to view it.*
10. Start an after-school program for advanced students to create tutorials for other students using Jing and Camtasia.
11. Purchase a webcam and start using Skype to communicate with friends, colleagues and family.
12. Train computer lab teacher and classroom teachers on custom search engines, google search tips and tricks.
13. Display charts with google search shortcuts in all classrooms in my academy and in the lab.
14. Clearly label one computer in each classroom as research stations and request that each classroom has a full time researcher who will be changed each day
15. Rename the computer lab on my floor to Global Communication Center
16. **Teach teachers how to use google docs to collaborate on lesson plans and agendas**
17. Spearhead initiative of teachers using Twitter to send homework information and announcements to parents.
18. Publish some of my older papers on my own wiki and invite other educators to comment on them
19. Use my current written college assignments as blog entries, discussion threads and wiki pages and invite others to visit, critique and contribute.
"FIND A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE YOU, SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH THEM, AND IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE."

Amy Poehler
Things to Consider

1. Safety First (Get a GAFA/Suite domain)
2. Begin with the verbs (Prensky)
3. Compelling mission matters!
4. Intrinsic Motivation
   a. Autonomy and Competency
   b. Connectedness/Relatedness
5. Links, links, links (the shortest path)
6. Use meaningful shortcuts
7. Have a "front" page
8. Have a hub
9. Listen to the language
10. Be clear how you define "support"

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