

The State of TEP Annual Report June, 2008

FY08 has been, in many ways, a good year for TEP. Although we were floundering a bit when I came on board, I think we were able to straighten out some rather serious problems regarding dues, vendor payments and software availability. Some of this year's highlights include, in no particular order:

- Hosting a very successful Annual Superintendents' Meeting in February
- Hiring a data analyst to support our DW grant
- Producing a professional TEP brochure
- Testifying at the State House on the Broadband bond bill
- Updating the web site and moving to a more reliable server
- Becoming involved in the Franklin County Schools program
- Producing a document retention policy template for our members
- Welcoming five new organizations as TEP members!

Furthermore, we found the remaining funds from the Cooperative Internet Project (CIP) and were able to balance our budget. We did a lot of organizational work. We hosted visitors from Microsoft, Apple, MEC, and SmartEDU. Unfortunately, we didn't do much in the way of technical presentations by people within or outside TEP. I find that it is quite challenging to get much done in a very short two hour timeframe, especially since we rarely start right at 8:30. We might want to think about having a few special, longer meetings where we can explore a technical issue in more depth.

As FY09 approaches, TEP is in an excellent position to move forward with our stated goal of supporting K-12 technologies in our schools. Although we did not hit our goal of a \$50,000 budget, we will have some money available beyond my salary. In the coming year, if TEP members concur, I would like to accomplish, among other things, the following:

- Take direct control of the mailing list
- Convert the web site over to Joomla
- Attract new members from further south and west
- Explore opportunities to integrate open source software into our schools

I also believe it is time to become a real, legally-recognized organization. With TEP approval, I propose to work on a 501(c)(3) application over the summer. As a 501(c)(3), we will be able to manage our own finances and can also pursue foundation and corporate grants and do other types of fundraising without conflicting with the efforts of the GCC Foundation. I will also continue to pursue a relationship with the new METAA.

Lastly, I would like to offer more services to our members. I think we should take another look at purchasing hardware. We could fairly easily offer Moodle and Joomla hosting if there is an interest. We could also offer instruction in both those technologies. I would also like to offer video conferencing training and support, since many of our members have underutilized VC equipment in their districts. Lastly, perhaps we can do more with open source software. There may be an opportunity for an open source conference in early fall by working with Michael Selva and MassCUE.