Gina Bruce: Weeks 1-3

**Mission Statements**

South Western City Schools (link is below): “Our mission, directed by our commitment to excellence, and in partnership with the community, is to meet the educational needs of our diverse population of learners.”

I see mission statements for schools as a way to tell communicate with the community in which they serve. They should address these people directly, each person that reads the statement should feel as the statement is “talking” directly to them and that they themselves can relate and understand what the mission of the district.

**Basics of Developing a Mission, Vision and Value Statement**

This article, website, gives information about what type of information should be included with in the mission statement and ask you questions that you should answer within your mission statement. That refining your mission statement can change what the scope of the statement, and how every mission statement should be different from all other organizations and separates yours from the pack.

**Technology, Educational Technology, and Plans**

These articles show how each vision statement of how technology and/or education technology, and there plans may differ on where they are being applied. Technology is ever changing, and older school district struggle from time to time in implementing technology in classrooms, labs, and other situations due to what each building is capable of doing. How do we get these schools up to the same level when money cannot be raised and/or passes by the community? How do we equally reach each student? We cannot, not at this time, since there is no central school system; each district has their individual issues which they have to create individual plans to address those issues. Some districts that have brand new buildings up in the last ten years are now out dated on technology, because technology is ever changing. Public school districts usually are behind in technology because of legislation and community/government control of the ‘money’ that goes into the district. District can’t just go on the internet and open a credit card to buy new things for the building; it’s just not that easy. So for instance each teacher within a building is asked how do they use technology to enhance student achievement? An answer you may receive is, with the technology I have available from the district I am doing everything I can to enhance student achievement with technology, but I know there is more and more current technology available which would benefit the students even more that what we have available now.

**Acceptable Uses Policy**

An acceptable use policy (AUP) is a policy that a user must agree to follow in order to be provided with access to a network or to the Internet and/or email.

Why are they in important? How do they apply to school districts?

With technology growing at rapid rate students are more and more involved into technology, growing up my grandma had a rotary phone; most students today would even know what one looks like. Most students before entering middle school have a cell phone and/or computer of their own. School districts need to have a way to see what students are looking at on district computer, but if there are 1900 students in each of the 4 high schools, and only 4 technicians whom monitor this issue they are outnumbered. So districts implement an AUP, saying that students agree (basically) they will use the Internet for educational purposes. The same rules apply for staff, at times staff are just as likely to visit non-district site by a proxy. Such as Ebay, Facebook, Twitter, etc… but as technology changes what is an acceptable and unacceptable to use changes frequently? YES! If a student is allowed to get in Facebook (no proxy) and schedule to meet with a personal (male and/or female) while at school is that the schools fault, the student, the parents fault, or someone else? While we hope these situations never happen, sometimes hope is not enough so districts have protect students and staff.

**Technology and Student Achievement**

“Integrating technology into the curriculum in today’s schools should not mean finding ways that computers can help us teach the same old things in the same old ways. Instead, school leaders have the opportunity to combine technology with emerging models of teaching and learning to transform education.”

We want teachers to teach the old things, but also the new things in all new integrated ways. We want teachers to learn how to use the technology and how it can apply in all classrooms at all age groups and abilities. Students whom cannot communicate in a normal average fashion now have a link to others and lessons that were never there before and they were left feeling out of the loop. Each student understands technology, but do they know how it can enhance their individual achievement? Not usually, and students just see that a teacher is now trying something new, trying a new toy, but what the teach has just done... got that students attention that may have normally not cared about
school, that class, or anything at all. Even by just getting their attention by using/doing something different, you have just opened a door or window into how to reach that student.

URL’s

Mission Statement: My School District

Educational Technology Plan: My School District

Acceptable Uses Policy: My School District

Cooperate AUP

A smaller district: Click on 5 Year Plans (on the Left), Click on Technology

Missions Statements for Schools

Student Achievement and Technology