

Agenda items for 11/9 SBoard mtg

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Thu, Oct 21, 2010 at 8:48
PM

To: "Fuller, Andrea" <afuller@capeelizabetschools.org>

Hi Andrea,

For the SB agenda, under Recognition:

Karen Abbott, Technology Educator of the Year. Karen received her award on October 14 at the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine (ACTEM) banquet last week. She also learned that she is now in the running for national recognition. In her acceptance speech, Karen expressed her admiration for her colleagues' willingness to learn from each other and her appreciation of the support from PCPA and CEEF and their many donors.

Definition of a Maine Educator of the Year:

Criteria:

1. The nominee's work can be used as a model.
2. The nominee has demonstrated his/her ability to both deliberately plan for and incorporate in the use of technology for the purpose of improving the educational setting.
3. The quality of education and/or work experience has been significantly advanced in the nominee's workplace as a result of the nominee's efforts.
4. The nominee works tirelessly to genuinely improve the quality of education.
5. The nominee has not only incorporated technology into their practice, but has moved beyond adaption stage to the transformative use of technology.

Pond Cove first-grade teacher Karen Abbott receives 'Teacher of the Year' award

By Wendy Keeler

Pond Cove first-grade teacher Karen Abbott received the 2010-2011 "Teacher of the Year" Award last week from the Association of Curriculum Technology Educators of Maine for her work in integrating technology into teaching.

In addition to receiving a personal award of \$2,000, Abbott will get \$1,000 with which to purchase technology for Pond Cove.

"Congratulations to Karen for this recognition of the selfless investment of time and effort she has made to incorporate technology not just into her classroom but into the school as a whole," Pond Cove Principal Tom Eismeier announced Sept. 16. "Credit also goes to Librarian/Media Specialist Shari Robinson for the quality and depth of the nomination letter that helped the judges make their final decision."

Anyone who talks to Abbott for a minute or two about the impact that technology can have on young learners likely will walk away a believer.

A Portland resident who has taught at Pond Cove for 13 years, Abbott discovered the power of technology in education when she introduced cameras to her students.

"When our school received digital cameras, my children learned that by taking pictures of emerging butterflies, they could revisit that moment and share it with their families," Abbott wrote to ACTEM's nominating committee. "They became authors, took pictures, and wrote a story about an escaping caterpillar that we put on our new website."

Abbott's first-graders became hooked, and so did their teacher.

"I began to realize that besides being fun, technology truly made a difference in how children perceived themselves as learners. This process allowed them to show how they could collaborate and communicate their knowledge in a creative and innovative way. Sharing it with their families, friends, and community gave them an audience," Abbott wrote.

Although she still uses digital cameras, Abbott has added newer technology.

Her kids now use Flip video cameras, "perfect for first-graders. They love being able to express themselves and what they've learned through video," she said.

Abbott and her students are also iPod af-



Pond Cove first-grade teacher Karen Abbott won a Teacher of the Year award last week for her use of technology in the classroom.

ficionados.

"I use iPods to record reading fluency. The children love to hear themselves, and it gives us both the opportunity to evaluate how they're doing."

Abbott is also a fan of iTunes and GarageBand, but her biggest love is the SMART Board, an interactive whiteboard that allows students and teachers to create and manipulate objects on a screen. Kids take to the technology because they can share ideas right away she said. "I love it because I can assess understanding immediately and reach multiple learners, not just one or two."

Thanks to grants from the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation and the Pond Cove Parents Association, Pond Cove now has a SMART Board in every classroom. Abbott, fourth-grade teacher Erik Nielsen, and Pond Cove technology integrator Tim Hattaway have led SMART Board workshops for teachers and will continue to do so during this school year.

Excited as Abbott is about her current uses of technology in the classroom, she won't stop looking for new ways to help children learn through technology.

"I feel like I've only touched the surface of what I want to accomplish," she said.