**Foxborough Public Schools**

**MassCUE Evaluator Program Evaluation – Sun Associates**

**Foxborough Principal Interview Questions**

This interview is part of Foxborough’s technology program review which focuses on how instructional technology is used to support teaching and learning in the district. This review effort has been assembled by a committee of Foxborough administrators and teachers and is intended to support the implementation of the district’s technology plan in the coming months.

As you are aware, in addition to my visit to your building today, we are conducting an online survey and will be visiting all classrooms and learning spaces in the district. We are also conducting teacher, student, and parent focus groups which will take/took place on Monday, March 24, 2014. The results of this review, which will be analyzed against a set of descriptive indicators that were developed by the MassCUE Evaluators Team, will be reported to the district later in the spring.

I appreciate you taking the time with me today. You should know that your responses to these questions will be confidential. Details of today’s conversation will not be reported to the district. So feel free to be frank and to speak your mind here.

**Interview Questions:**

1. As a way of getting started, could you give me one example of a student activity that you have seen taught (by a teacher in this building) that demonstrates what you feel is an exemplary job of integrating technology to support student learning?

* [*www.Thinkingblocks.com*](http://www.Thinkingblocks.com)*, helps students with math word problems and understanding fractions*
* *Public speaking course…teacher streams in infomercials…using smartboard, students then create their own infomercials…*
* *In 3rd grade, blogging…getting kids that don’t like to write, writing…they like blogging…gives them ability to write…teacher doesn’t post it until revisions are done…*
* *Classroom teacher did an author study with students. After the study students were able to Skype with the author…*
* *Teacher used sound board for math lesson with manipulatives and document camera…students went back to desks and there was confusion…teacher used National Virtual Library to show how to use manipulatives to write…see connection on board…*

Why was this effective? *(and if they talk about technology, probe for why they feel that the use of technology in particular was effective)*

* *Yes it is effective…internet, web-based, using smartboard students are able to move blocks…*
* *Very effective…current, relevant, able to see on big screen…*
* *Allows kids to make revisions…quieter kids that are blogging can become superstars…*
* *Very effective…opportunity to have purpose…speak to the author…great way of making the world smaller quickly…teachers will also use Discovery Ed, Brain Pop…*
* *Use of real time learning and re-teaching…benefits all students…better lesson than using interactive board…meets students’ needs…multiple pathways…*

1. What is your vision – your ideal – for the role of technology in teaching and learning?

* *Be as succinct as possible, everyone should have access to internet…lessons using the internet at their fingertips…authentication…tasks created by teachers needing internet access to solve…students using understanding in multiple applications…*
* *Integrated into curriculum, not just an ‘add-on’…one to one with kids all on same platform…*
* *Seems to be seamless…technology is another tool in giving good instruction that we already do…can enhance instruction in many ways…comfort level needs to come up for teachers…*
* *Make teaching and learning more efficient…not take the place of face to face...practice and development…would like individual students to get what they need….*
* *Help every child reach proficiency…for technology to have value…not just for technology…what is the real value…*

1. Do you feel that the teachers in your building currently have the technology and pedagogical skills to support your plan/vision?

* *No*
* *Don’t think people are utilizing as much as possible…without right people in place…support for teachers…changes happening so rapidly…instead of technology people use teacher leaders…*
* *Some teachers are beyond, for others the comfort level is not there, and some are in between… Some teachers use PhotoStory…becomes ‘my’ tool…kindergarten and pre-school can be incorporated…*
* *No, not yet*
* *Yes and no…it’s a continuum…some are, some are developing and need more confidence, some lacking…*

1. What challenges do your teachers face in integrating technology in your school and in their classroom? *(this is the “barriers” question that usually elicits comments about infrastructure, support, etc.)*

* *Knowledge of what’s available, understanding applications such as blogs, wikis, Pearson Inform, interactive textbooks, etc…, assistance for support to change their instructional model…*
* *Time…ability to access without crashing filters, etc…interface with all devices, PCs and Macs…*
* *Infrastructure…only one hotspot…older building, so electrical outlets far and few between…iPads have applications that don’t need wireless support…trying to use these (iPads)…make fixes that are not band-aids…*
* *Solving mental block… Like to see people more willing to just open and play…some still have the mindset that they need a manual or instructions…instead of just going with it, for example, an iPad…should just turn it on and learn as you go… Pace of change…technology team to narrow down great resources…*
* *Time…to explore…resources not 100%...have interactive boards, wireless...we don’t have laptops…do have computers but rarely used…*

1. What opportunities do your teachers have to develop skills in integrating technology? *(prompt for planning time, technology specialist, professional development)*

* *Prep, curriculum directors, professional development… Insufficient knowledge, support, vision to know what teachers need in order for them to meet their goals – don’t know what you don’t know… Have applications for independent study and collegial support…*
* *Teachers a lot on their own…district generous with professional development…can highlight for staff…courses on how to integrate (i.e. like Keri’s classes)…teachers doing workshops for others…*
* *Professional development…have tried to incorporate technology ‘how-to’ in staff meetings… New technology integration specialist started infomercials…drop-in technology meetings…time that works for teachers…*
* *A lot work collaboratively, some individually...have New Literacy…Darlene Reed twice weekly…PTO funded support…Faces not utilized enough…*
* *Darlene Reed...she puts out multiple opportunities for teachers to learn…BrainPop…one to one with teachers…faculty meetings…snapshots of what can be used...*

1. To what extent do you feel that the district ensures a budget that supports the continual upgrade and maintenance of its technology infrastructure? *Please be specific.*

* *District supports to the extent that it can…needs far exceed the support…need more money for laptop and iPad carts, professional development, additional staff to create teacher leaders for integrated technology…*
* *Definitely district has budgeted for this…need to educate public though, some people think schools have the wireless, labs, etc. so they should be fine, but don’t realize the constant upgrading needed…*
* *Comfortable with what is budgeted and what we want to do…have DiscoveryEd, interactive whiteboards, document cameras, some iPads for special education students, BrainPop…all able to be available…*
* *Infrastructure is there and the supports…only one hotspot in elementary schools… Not doing a good job identifying tools for teachers, for example, the use of HoverCams came from math department not from technology…*
* *Very strong…support is excellent…administration makes sure funds are available…feel like Foxborough is a little behind…for all that is available could be more…one to one devices and wireless…*

1. What can you, in your role as a principal, do to support integrated, effective use of technology throughout your school as well as the parent community?

* *Model technology use, encourage use, provide release time, support teachers, Faces Grant, utilize bits of the budget to enhance technology (i.e. cameras)…*
* *Find time within after school for new applications, perhaps mini workshops…time during the day to go to labs to learn from tech person. Currently supportive to parents/community with open house, email, tweeting…*
* *Teachers are open to requests… Infomercials…catch attention and can expand it... We do video newsletters (idea that came from parent survey) about every other month…quick video newsletter about community service projects, field trips sponsored by PTO…parents can see what’s going on…*
* *Support teachers ideas…model it…create opportunities in school…support when doing in-service, we asked a high school student to do Rizma(?) video slides…need to be ahead of the curve…*
* *Give teachers opportunity with on-site technology that could be used…during staff meetings…work closely with Darlene…she did document camera training during professional development with interactive board for the assistants…suggest they go checkout other teachers…*

1. Are there policies or practices that promote the effective use of technology in teaching and learning? If so, please describe.

* *Practice - all teachers need to post homework assignments on their webpage*

*Policy – teachers are required to post their grades in PowerSchool*

*Webmaster – stipend position, get information out to parents via the website…putting technology into classrooms…*

* *Yes…opened up Bring Your Own Device to students and allowing cell phone use…kids have been great about using properly…teachers are having students use their smartphones to lookup apps…Internet Usage Policy*
* *Acceptable Usage Policy…not worried at elementary level… Collaboration is common in the building, for example, 3rd grade teacher built webpage then helped two other teachers build theirs…4th grade teacher using PhotoStory and shares with colleagues…gets them on board…*
* *Think they hinder more than develop…security makes it difficult for staff to use…*
* *Policy…no. Practice…what’s efficient and how we share information with faculties and parents…how can we promote technology…establish minimal standards on teachers’ websites…website parents can go to…post grades/homework online…done at high school and middle but not elementary…*

1. Is there anything else that you would like me to know that has not come up in our conversation…or are there any other questions you have for me?

* *Feel the lack of communication to general staff about infrastructure challenges, translates to roadblocks for people using the internet…teachers can’t experiment, try out new applications…when internet is not working, no response as to no availability…consistent delays are frustrating technology integration. We could be further down the road…providing hands on, person to person support…*
* *New windows change over caused blockage with Science classes from getting out what they were using in the classroom…filters challenging…one to one labs configured differently/more pods…*
* *iPad usage in special education…3rd grade iPads donated…Nooks for the library from the PTO... Upper grade levels being upgraded in technology more than elementary…feels like it’s trickling down to lower grades…could just be more comfort level…one kindergarten classroom without whiteboard…*
* *Performance standards…*
* *Surprised Foxborough is not further along given the budget it allows…ideas that are innovative but not well received by technology…see what’s best for the kids and teachers then implement…*