Robert:

Is there a time sometime today when we might talk directly for a few minutes on this…   the SC Advisory Council unanimously approved this; and then – with no notice – there was a phone conference that made the point even stronger.

I'd like to talk with you on:

a.   Engaging the existing FAMIS Data Committee directly in two of the SC issues which are now critical;
b.   Planning for input from the Data Committee (or all FAMIS members…) prior to the next SC JAD…
c.   Next steps to keep this sensible coordinated with FAMIS overall, and also with the DOE database folks…

Thank you,

Bill P.

William "Bill" Piotrowski

Executive Director, Technology & Information Services

Leon District Schools

520 South Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304

(850) 487-7530   FAX (850) 487-7849

mailto:piotrowskiw@leon.k12.fl.us

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From: Piotrowski, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2006 10:55 AM
To: Theresa Klebacha (theresa.klebacha@fldoe.org); Howes, Tim
Cc: Robert Land (landwr@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us); Schuette Brad; Bill Bush; Wimberley, Merrill; Croteau, Jim
Subject: Database Recommendations for Sunshine Connections Consideration

RE: Database Services Recommendations for Sunshine Connections – possible agenda item for Advisory Council

TK and Tim:

Good morning.   This is follow-up to my mentioning last week that the Florida K-12 CIO's (the FAMIS Data Committee) had made some recommendations that we discussed possibly being appropriate for the Sunshine Connections Advisory Council meeting later this week.   In brief, the consensus from the FAMIS Data Committee was to be as helpful as possible in supporting the Sunshine Connections process as relates to data exchange, technical support, and architecture issues (see *Note, below). The notes from the FAMIS Data Committee are attached, but these are not too intelligible so here is a plain-English write-up on the three recommendations:

a.   That the **FAMIS Data Committee** (which represents 15 school districts: large, medium, and small) **serve as a sounding-board, through a series of JAD-work group type sessions, to help resolve, make recommendations and support the Sunshine Connections** deployment by working to arrange appropriate training and dissemination to all 72 school districts via FAMIS (at the fall and spring conferences, as with other special sessions and communications). Having broader input into the planning, standards, and deployment would likely be a significant benefit to this project as the district situations – and understanding – vary widely.

b.   That special **JAD workgroup type sessions be set up as soon as possible** (including sessions concurrent with FETC in January and FAMIS in April) relating not only to discussion of current issues, but also to specific training relating to web-portal architectures, and common network, infrastructure, and security services necessary for Sunshine Connections. The earlier JAD session put on by Sunshine Connections in June was very favorably received and was generally perceived to be an effective way to have input and to help explain technical deployment requirements across a wide range of school districts.

c. That the DOE (and Sunshine Connections) consider having **statewide student and staff directory services** which would provide school districts both a real-time and a batch-based processing options for adding, validating, and updating student and staff IDs.   The real-time option could be something that is incorporated into each district's respective automated information system student or staff enrollment processes, which would allow verification and location of staff or students who had been elsewhere in the state previously. This would be in addition to, i.e. the current batch update options would remain, as are currently in place with the DOE student and staff survey record formats.

This message is to request your consideration of these three recommendations being presented to Sunshine Connections project staff for their consideration, and possibly including an agenda item at this week's Advisory Council meeting on these recommendations – as you all feel would work best for productive consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. Feel free to call or reply back.

Sincerely,

Bill Piotrowski, FAEDS Representative to the Sunshine Advisory Council (representing K-20 CIOs/CTOs statewide)

*Note: While it was noted that certain district representatives had been active in helping resolve some

key issues (David Smith's additions to the User File options and codes, for example), that there are many other issues and options that are likely helpful to the broader range of school districts who – as you all well appreciate – are "all over the map" in terms of readiness for centralized directory services, reliable and scalable architectures for distributed web-based portals, and web-services functions that are common to these deployments, but still not common to most school districts (e.g. single sign-on, strong passwords, network managed services and updates, data exchanges, self-service user password renewals…).   There is much potential for improvements within the scope of current school district priorities and service improvements that could occur through increased dialogue and setting of certain standards, conventions, and service options – that would specifically benefit Sunshine Connections, but other web-based distributed applications and services as well.

<<FAMIS Data Committee (2).doc>>

William "Bill" Piotrowski

Executive Director, Technology & Information Services

Leon District Schools

520 South Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304

(850) 487-7530 or 487-7372   FAX (850) 487-7849

mailto:piotrowskiw@leon.k12.fl.us