

Overview of Barrington SIS RFP Process
April 16, 2010

Following a lengthy RFP and thorough evaluation process, we have selected Aspen X2 as our new student information system. Seven years ago we began our journey with SchoolMax. Over time, we have been able to clean demographic data, comply with rapidly escalating state and federal reporting requirements and introduce iParent. This effort has also enabled us to implement TIENET, our connected special education, literacy, curriculum and assessment case management system.

A number of factors brought us to the decision to make this switch. Despite promises to the contrary, SchoolMax has not kept pace with contemporary student information systems. In the last year, the product was sold and we had not noticed any positive shift in direction. Today's products clearly offer expanded, more user friendly functionality in almost every area. TIENET will remain our special education and literacy case management system.

The launch of our search began in January with the initiation of a formal RFP process. Input was collected from all stakeholders in the form of a survey asking for identification of functional area and response to the following 3 questions:

- Which elements of SchoolMax would you be sorry to lose?
- Which elements of SchoolMax would you like to see replaced or updated?
- Other comments or suggestions?

Responses to the RFP were received on February 11, 2010. We received 7 proposals. After careful review, 3 finalists were selected. Requests for clarification, visits to districts both within and outside of RI, email and phone reference checks were conducted. Input from the survey responses was used throughout to inform decision making.

On March 24th, all three finalists were asked to do product demonstrations to a group of stakeholders representing every functional area of our system. Survey results were distributed to finalists so that they could tailor demonstrations to user priorities. Participants were asked to evaluate products based on four criteria:

- Demonstrates ease of use with concise, clear screen layout
- As observed, seems to meet core functionality and flexibility
- As observed, has extensive user help system and supports
- Notes on likes and dislikes

On March 25th, finalists met with the technology team to follow-up on outstanding issues from the prior day and to discuss in-depth implementation plans and strategies.

We are pleased to present Aspen X2 as the best product to meet our current and anticipated needs and, following approval at this evening's School Committee, look forward to beginning the next phase of this process.