SPARCC Stark-Portage Area Computer Consortium

Data Analysis Committee
February 24, 2011

The following individuals attended this session:

Ben Black, SPARCC	Eric Curts, North Canton City
Brian Paisley, Perry Local	George Woods, Jackson Local
Dack Warner, SPARCC	Jeff Dyer, SPARCC
Dale Rush, Canton Local	Jim Levering, SPARCC
David Erb, Lake Local	Maureen Haska, Streetsboro City
David Forman, SPARCC	Mel Lioi, SPARCC
David Pilati, Plain Local	Pat Carroll, Fairless Local
Elaine Barkan, Stark County ESC	

David Forman provided introductory remarks to the group. As noted in a previous meeting, SPARCC has created a data warehouse using Microsoft SQL Server and populated it with data primarily from the DASL database. During the summer of 2010, SPARCC contracted with Result Data to build a framework from which to work and this serves as the underpinning of the data structure. Prototypes were developed using Microsoft PowerPivot to demonstrate what can be done to present the data to end users. Some districts are selectively accessing the data but no one is delivering the information on a regular basis. SPARCC intends to develop data portals using PowerPivot and these will be delivered using Microsoft SharePoint. SPARCC has contracted with AVVENIRE to build the foundation for these tools.

The SPARCC development team provided an overview and history of the data warehouse. Version I was introduced in October 2010 and contained student, teacher, course, attendance, marks and assessment data for multiple years. Currently, Version II is under development and nearing completion. Additional data fields have been added including some EMIS related fields. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the spring of 2011. Version III is scheduled for development beginning in the summer of 2011. The group provided a list of additional fields to be included which were primarily assessment related items.

It was noted that the inclusion of student contacts data is being discussed. It would be very helpful to bring this data into the data warehouse; however, there are difficulties in completing this task. DASL does not uniquely identify families which makes it difficult to establish sibling relationships. Districts have tried various methods to massage the data in order to generate the list of families but these methods are not perfect. It was noted that Pinnacle Gradebook software package contains a family ID code which may prove useful. The SPARCC development team will continue to search for a solution to this dilemma.

It was mentioned that the SPARCC development team will continue to search for software tools which enable the analysis of data by district personnel. One such tool is the Testing Werks product which has gained the attention of several member districts. This product allows for the display and analysis of student assessment data. It was developed using Filemaker but can work successfully with Microsoft SQL Server. An attempt is underway to determine the level of interest in this product among the member districts.

The next meeting date of this group has yet to be decided. Additional information will be shared with the committee members as soon as it is available.