

Dave Parker

How were you first sought out to be a teacher here[at Century High School]?

I was working between 1990-1997 I was a teacher at Hillsboro high school I taught science and I also started. Intel in 1993 gave us a grant of \$100,000 to install our first network at hillhigh. And I was head of the group that was responsible for this first wide area network in the district, an other person Jim Harington was also responsible for that. And so I set up the first network at hillhigh and worked for Phil barnekof for the planning principle for Century High School and some time 2 years before actually 3 year before century was opened phil brought me into his office and said you know dave if you had if you could create a school a technology schoolwhats your vision of what that would look like. And I described to him exactly what I would like it to do I'd like students to go from room to room and no matter were they go I want their information to fallow them. If there working in a lab like a drafting lab ro what ever were there working on a computer I wanted them to be able to then you know leave when the bell rings leave that room and go into another room and be able to work on their stuff. I didn't want them to have to go back to that individual computer in that little lab. What great power there was when ever you put kids and computer and adults and mix them all up what you find is that normaly in a school you find that there is a lot of comunication between staff members to students it just goes there just this kind of lecture that goes on. When you throw a computer in the mix what usually happens is the kids sit down at the computer the adults sit down at the computer and within a couple of minutes the adults could be asking the kids hey how do you do this and all the sudden theres this communication that begins to happen from the stident to the staff member that is very very powerful were the learner becomes the teacher and if you look at any of the classes we have in our school right now that happens. Now that was one of the things that was very big in our vision of creating this technology high school was to begin to um to create this web of communication between students and staff, staff and students parents and students, parents and staff and increasing the communication. And so we sat down and talked about what that vision was and Phil said great lets go make it.

With the grant from intel what did that bring?

What happened next was phil kinda said you're the guy lets go create this high school. we began a long 2 year process of trying to figure out how we were going to get all the money we need to put together this kind of revolutionary high school. Belive it or not I find it hard to belive myself but every were we went no one had done this before and you would have thought that you know that this would have been. The. When we created the computers we created this kind of bullet proof

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macintosh, purchase for all the schools, and so when we started envisioning this a this school our original design was half mac and half PC.

Yeah I read that in the planning team minutes.

We took it to one of the very first intel meetings you know its very funny after the meeting was over you know there was some the intel folks were very polite and they put up a couple little you know. But after the meeting one of the very big power brokers at intel kind of came up and put his arm around me and said you know don't bring us back another proposal that includes macintoshes it would be that wouldn't be you could do that if you want but you wont get our our full support we want to build a school that we want to be involved in a process that includes intel based parts. I mean that's what they do. So um we began to look at ok what would that look like and pretty soon it was a better idea im glad that they did that but pretty soon all of our sites went on creating this PC based network most of our Wide Area Network was PC based anyway and the macs were just attaching into it. We met with them on and off for 2 years kind of planning and working and um there were 2 people that were key players kort kerler and um randy steck who really um really fought for us and um the year before we opened was wen the major portions started were we began to actually get down on plans and mark were every single drop in the school was going to be then we some were in January we had this last meeting were it was like guys we need to we need you guys to make a decision are you going to help us out or are you not? Then withing a week it was like boom we got 585 machines well not machines we they provided all the stuff that they made we had cases motherboards processors lan cards pieces they had already created we bought ram monitors mice keyboards things they did not produce but still their[intel] investment in this school was right around a half a million dollards. Or so I mean it made all the differnce in the world for us to be able to create the school that we wanted to the next big piece after that was we had to get it all done. We had to build 585 boxes we contracted out with another company to actually put the ram in the boxes and to build put the hardware together and they would just burn them out which is just to they run them up to a certain about of hours to make sure they are the the box is functioning. Then we had all of those delivered to the school the whole spring long it took me most of the spring to kind of create this build this operating system and applications that would be bullet proof a lot of my spring a lot of my weekends in here redoing that process the the really interesting part of that process started in june when school let out we started building the individual boxes and at that time we didn't have now were have nice software were we can build 30 machines at a time you know with out a problem at all but that time we had to the process was to got hrough the whole operating system setup go through all of the apps setup