

Title of Session: ProActive Educators

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online Room

DianneA: Hello

DianneA hugs

DianneA: just you and I for the moment?

DianneA: and an apology from MichaelHo

BJ: hopefully we'll have some other participants.

BJ nods about Michael

BJ: Roslyn is logged in. I'll page her and see if she's joining us

DianneA: I am putting up my hand for looking after the transcript for any session that develops

DianneA: and posting in the Proactive Educators room

BJ: offer accepted! Thanks

BJ: maybe that will inspire someone to join us

RoslynT joined the room.

RoslynT: Hi Dianne.

BJ: welcome, Roslyn

RoslynT: Thanks, BJ. Lovely to be with you again, by chance.

DianneA: Hi Roslyn

DianneA: chance?

RoslynT: Yes. My daughter has just gone to live for a year in France and I've become a bit more manic than usual at the computer hoping for an e-mail.

DianneA nods

DianneA: that is understandable

RoslynT: She was our most risktaking child, but we hope she's settled down now at the grand age of 17.

RoslynT: Back to the subject ...

BJ nods

BJ: What is proactive educators and what do we want as the goal of this group?

DianneA: we were hoping to have an inaugural discussion around some of the items raised in the various postings in the Group Discussion

DianneA: but we seem to be missing the US contingent, Bj excepted

RoslynT: So should I get them up first? [the discussion lists, not the US contingent]

DianneA: so perhaps we can run with Bj's more general suggestion

DianneA: we will need to adjourn to the Group room for you to do that Roslyn

RoslynT: Well, I think Pro-Active Educators is a great name - a clear purpose implied there.

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe waves

DianneA: so perhaps let's stay put for about another 5 minutes, for late arrivers

DavidWe: Hi

DianneA: Hi David

RoslynT: I think it would be better to remain where you've advertised you will be.

DavidWe apologizes for cooking and eating dinner while joining the discussion

DavidWe: Hi, Dianne

RoslynT: Hi David.

DavidWe runs into the kitchen waving to everyone else here

DianneA: Often sessions start in the ASO and then move to Group rooms

DianneA: timing the move is one of the tricky steps

RoslynT: Well, I feel right at home in a group called ProActive Educators and surely you two do. What brought about the desire or need to start the group?

DianneA: When you joined the Proactive educators Ros, what did it convey to you?

DianneA: we were following up some ideas from the Festival, about continuing education credits

BJ: A brief history of why the group was started....the certificates for the TI festivals are really popular and a big draw for participation in the events...

BJ: but the certificates came with the caveat that they were only useful if the school district of the participant recognized them as CEU's

RoslynT: The fact that some teachers aren't proactive and some teachers are, and that to be pro-active is generally a positive for education, but that often the pro-active people get egg on their faces and get put back in their boxes by lazier people who have more power. They can be seen as a thread to the system and they may require support and a dose of realism from time to time. I see Pro-active Educators as being idealistic.

BJ . o O (CEU = continuing education units)

BJ: it turns out that this criteria varies from state to state and probably from country to country

DianneA: So Roslyn, you were looking to support folk who might need support?

BJ: Tapped In (SRI) doesn't have the funding or the time to offer CEUs

BJ: we're hoping that your support will earn you CEU's, Roslyn.

DianneA: BJ Roslyn is one of the Aussie contingent

DianneA: and active in e-fora here

BJ nods. Roslyn and I have known each other for quite a while

RoslynT: Yes, and receive support in return. I see myself as a resilient person, and a pretty experienced teacher. I've had rewards but all my pro-activity and work has not got me anywhere in terms of career or money or advancement. But I have a fulfilling job and I have confidence and people can't take my publishing and my reputation away from me.

BJ: Many teachers in the US have those experiences, Roslyn, and it's great to participate in TI for intrinsic rewards...

BJ: but the cold hard truth is that in the US with NCLB teachers are required to get Continuing Ed Credits throughout their teaching career...

DianneA: Roslyn, would you see Tapped In doing something to support professional development in a more formal way?

RoslynT: One way teachers can be pro-active is to give time (again!) to pat each other and each others' school programs on the back, to nominate colleagues for awards as individuals and to work collaboratively to nominate schools for funding from government departments and the private sector.

DianneA: so, there is significant value in self-authorization, and peer-recognition?

BJ: And that might just be a perfect solution for what is happening in education in your part of the world

BJ: peer recognition and self-authorization is important in the US also, but it conflicts with the demands of taking courses and classes to maintain certification

RoslynT: I was proactive at the start of this year. I suggested to my teacher union that we form a subcommittee to apply for some funding to use to allow public schools to celebrate the Bicentenary of our state. I got the proposal up (to the union executive) and we had fun dreaming up a project and getting support from all sorts of colleagues. Unfortunately the government didn't choose our wonderful Drama in Education project, but we gave it a good shot.

BJ: what we're trying to do is combine the best of both ideas

BJ: In Pennsylvania the Intermediate Units issue the CEUs

RoslynT: Our state, as I understand it, give credits for professional development in terms of declared hours. We have to keep a log for Teacher Registration.

DianneA: What does your log comprise Roslyn?

RoslynT: It's a do-it-yourself system based on trust at our school, authorized by the Principal. Most people are way too busy at school to fill in the running totals.

BJ: would participation in TI events be something that could be added to your log, Roslyn?

RoslynT: It's an online form on our school intranet.

BJ: we certainly have enough TI members to offer programs in Oz friendly times

RoslynT: Yes, it certainly could, BJ, but I wouldn't like to declare all the hours I spend in Tapped In. They wouldn't believe me and they'd think I was a crazy obsessed internet junkie.

BJ rolls her eyes. My lips are sealed, Roslyn!

DianneA: Roslyn ... what about the time spent with the TasEd portal?

RoslynT: I am planning to offer a Professional Development session to teachers at my own school, showing them around parts of Tapped In and particularly introducing the groups I manage (Thinking and Sustainable Environments).

RoslynT: What TasEd portal? Discover?

DianneA: yes

DavidWe listens a little bit

DavidWe smiles

RoslynT: The Education Department in Tasmania is building a new E-Centre for Teachers. It's hush-hush at the moment. I've applied to manage a community but all I have received is a rather lukewarm note.

DianneA: would managing a community be a paid position?

RoslynT: Discover is reported to be "going" . I am disappointed about this as I spent swags of time building up resources on that site and I feel let down every time they change things around without letting me know that they've deadened the links I've spent hours posting.

RoslynT: Oh heavens no.

RoslynT: It might be if you got a job at Discover but I'm a hands-on classroom teacher.

DianneA: would time spent in that development be counted towards your Log?

RoslynT: Let's change the subject. What are you eating, David?

DavidWe likes "hands-on classroom teachers"

DavidWe: hangar steak, shitake mushrooms, broccoli, salad...

DavidWe smiles and runs back to eat some salad

DianneA: Sorry Roslyn, I was trying to explore detail to draw some more general conclusions ...

RoslynT: I wasn't having a go at you, Dianne. I was just backing off because I invited some of my Ed Dept bosses to join Tapped In and one of them did so he'll be able to read what I write here in the archives.

DianneA nods

DianneA: this discussion will be archived in the ProActive Educators Group Room

DianneA: rather than the general archives, unless BJ has other ideas

DianneA: congrats for getting someone else in the Ed dept to join

BJ: hmmm...I was going to archive in the general archives also

DianneA: and see what's here

RoslynT: Thanks. But one would hope all the bosses in all the countries would one day see the benefit of joining Proactive Educators. hence my reserve (sort of).

BJ: but if you prefer that I don't, I'll bow to your wishes

DianneA: Bj, can we explore the archiving generally?

RoslynT: Well, perhaps one could be more open if one PMed a bit more.

DianneA: we have announced this event on the calendar

BJ Nods to Dianne.

DianneA: and afterschool online discussions generally go to the general archives

BJ . o O (which is why I thought I would archive with the regular transcripts)

DavidWe had a very interesting conversation with the principal at his former elementary school -different principal, but I was in the office, again, today - but I wasn't in trouble, honest

DavidWe: He had some true insights about the math program in Tenafly, NJ and that some good roots were planted in the elementary schools which ended up boosting SAT scores in the high school...some people see the big picture

DavidWe smiles

DianneA: discussion about developing continuing education credits and professional development and Tapped In's role in that would be valuable with broader exposure through the main archives

DianneA: Roslyn, you seem to have a wider view of 'proactive' than what we were scoping

BJ: I also think Roslyn is addressing intrinsic rewards when school districts are looking for extrinsic documentation

DianneA nods

DianneA: and this is perhaps a more important and fundamental issue

RoslynT: Also, I think school districts are sometimes suspicious of teacher initiative. I think teachers should be encouraged to show initiative.

DianneA: sorry I have be called away unexpected ..

DianneA: afk

BJ: exactly, Roslyn...we should be encouraged to be proactive

BJ nods to Dianne

RoslynT: Our state has introduced documented VALUES and PURPOSES for education.

RoslynT: One would think teachers in the past didn't have values.

BJ smirks. Life was a little less complicated in the past

RoslynT: but in funny way I am very proud of this system change.

RoslynT: When I was a Music teacher, I used to give give give and I got myself very run down. At my lowest point I went up to the District Office when I was so stressed I could barely operate any more and spoke to the Deputy there about my beefs at school. I asked some questions : What are their values? What is the purpose?

BJ listens to the response Roslyn got

DavidWe listens

DavidWe agrees strongly with BJ's comment about "extrinsic documentation"

AnneMG joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Anne

DavidWe: Hi, Anne

BJ: Hi, Anne! glad you could join us

RoslynT: A few years later and we have a huge new curriculum and a heck of a lot of work to adapt to it. Thank goodness the complaint I made was confidential. It led to a Workers Compensation case in the short term but I believe my proactivity had a small role to play in the development of the new curriculum.

AnneMG: Hi, All! Sorry I'm so late.

DavidWe thinks Roslyn's efforts were probably worthwhile

DavidWe: Welcome, Anne

DavidWe offers Anne some leftover shitake mushrooms

AnneMG: mmm....

AnneMG: Thanks

RoslynT: Anne. Hi I'm Roslyn from Australia. You're a singer in Philadelphia. You don't happen to know Sean Deibler do you?

AnneMG: Actually, I'm in Central PA. I don't know Sean.

RoslynT: He's a Conductor especially of Choral Music.

BJ: Anne, did you see Lance's post to the proactive group about contacting intermediate units for CEUs?

AnneMG: I sing in a barbershop chorus.

AnneMG: I did see it. I haven't had much time to do anything about it, though.

BJ: what I think we need to do as a group is invite some more admin types to our meetings....and reps from the IUs?

DavidWe: Yes!

DavidWe: Excellent idea

AnneMG: I'm trying to get my Superintendent to join. I meet with him again at the beginning of October.

DavidWe: Good luck with that, Anne

BJ: maybe you want to take a copy of the TI calendar and a transcript from one of your discussions, Anne...either from proactive ed or from Keystone

AnneMG: Thanks. I'm hopeful because he seems to respect my ideas. Unfortunately, he's brand new, so I don't know how that will affect what he does.

BJ understands. We appreciate you trying

AnneMG: I'll definitely take a copy of the calendar. I think a transcript from one of the subject based discussions as well.

BJ: If we make the requirements for the electronic TI portfolio authentic professional development experiences...

AnneMG: Can you suggest a really well put together chat?

BJ: Then I'm hoping that admin will see that teachers should be able to have input into what they do for CEUs

BJ: Anne, have you seen the transcript page?

AnneMG: I don't think so.

AnneMG: Wait, yes I have...

BJ: www.tappedin.org/transcripts

AnneMG: I'll check there for something that is relevant to what I teach.

AnneMG: If I can convince him to become a member, then I can let him check out transcripts for himself as well.

BJ agrees...or participate in one of the events.

AnneMG: In Pennsylvania, the school districts have a lot of power in awarding CEUs.

BJ: one of the options would be that the school district could run their own sessions in Tapped In

AnneMG: I like that idea.

AnneMG: That would allow the session to be tailored to thier teachers' needs.

BJ: that would provide an opportunity for teachers to meet online more frequently than the few times a year PD inservices

BJ Nods to Anne. The district could create a group room in TI

DavidWe appreciates the conversation but is going to leave now.

DavidWe: Sorry, I wasn't really paying attention. I really want to make this group work

AnneMG: Bye David

DavidWe thanks everyone else for coming and BJ for starting it

DavidWe thanks Dianne

BJ: we have been meeting for an hour. Thanks for joining us, David

DavidWe thanks Roslyn, too

DavidWe: Thanks, BJ

AnneMG: Next time, I'll try to be on time.

DavidWe taps his soccer playing feet off to watch a soccer game

BJ: Anne, do you have any other questions or concerns about the proactive educators

DavidWe: I'll try to be in front of the keyboard, but I promise to read my transcript.

DavidWe waves bye to all

DavidWe left the room (signed off).

AnneMG: I don't have any questions right now.

BJ: I know this meeting time isn't the best for US participants. Dianne and I were trying to have the first meeting when she was available

BJ: when would be a more convenient time for you to meet, Anne?

AnneMG: I'll read the transcript and let you know.

AnneMG: Actually, this wasn't a bad time for me, but if we want more people involved, we should think about meeting some other evening.

BJ nods.

AnneMG: Either that, or maybe Saturday mornings?

BJ: Thanks for joining us, Anne. Yes, we could try Saturday mornings

DianneA: hello, back

BJ: I'll schedule the October meeting for Saturday...can't be too early or we lose the west coast

AnneMG: When dealing with people globally, it's difficult to coordinate times.

BJ: everything ok, Dianne?

BJ agrees

DianneA: yes thanks BJ

AnneMG: Have you thought about having chats scheduled throughout the day.

AnneMG: ?

BJ: that is what the group room discussion board is for, Anne

DianneA: your Saturday morning would probably be OK with me ...

BJ: you can post to the discussion at any time

AnneMG: Maybe allow people to read transcripts from an earlier session, and then continue the conversation.

BJ: Dianne has offered to post this transcript in the group room

AnneMG: ok..

AnneMG: I like the instant feedback from the live chat.

BJ: when Dianne posts the script she will ask the group for feedback

BJ: yes, I enjoy the live chat too

DianneA: so 9am Saturday will work out at quite late at night for me ...

AnneMG: That's definitely an issue.

AnneMG: We don't want to alienate people.

DianneA: but then again, the group focus ought to be more US oriented at this stage

DianneA: I can come in on the threaded discussion

DianneA: that develops out of the immediate chat

BJ: and we'll try to vary the time each month to allow other areas to participate

AnneMG: I like that idea a lot.

DianneA: that has its good and bad points!

AnneMG: Then, at least people know we're making an effort to include as many as we can.

DianneA: . o O (for one who like regularity and being reliable)

AnneMG: If we set up specific times on a rotating basis, though, we could make it somewhat regular.

DianneA nods

RoslynT: Thanks for the chance to be involved today anyway. I think it's more value to you as a group to have a critical mass to I'd support finding a time to suit a majority.

RoslynT: Did we get anywhere?

AnneMG: I won't know until I read the rest of what went on.

BJ: not far

BJ: but it's a start...our first step

AnneMG: I'll try to get more of the Keystones involved, if I can.

BJ: that would be great, Anne. I don't want to miss the momentum that Lance started

DianneA: One of the thoughts I had coming into the session was how to mobilize the different interests conveyed in the discussion threads so far

DianneA: Lance's route was one such thread

DianneA: MichaelHo had a thread for TIXCollege connections

AnneMG: Maybe set up chats specific to that thread?

BJ: I'm a little hesitant about any success with college affiliation

DianneA: can you elaborate a bit more BJ?

RoslynT: Is there a facility on Tapped In 2 to invite people to join in specific groups if they're not yet registered in Tapped IN?

BJ: Pepperdine has been affiliated with TI from day one and has not agreed to granting credits

AnneMG: Are you talking about advertising on the welcome page?

DianneA: good point BJ

BJ . o O (unless you're enrolled in a Pepperdine course)

AnneMG: Of course... it all comes down to money

BJ nods to Anne...and we don't have any. That's why the group was started...to find other routes to getting the CEUs

DianneA: Roslyn, not quite

RoslynT: I just asked as someone earlier was talking about getting more people into the discussion.

BJ: I had an article in the last TI newsletter

BJ: you could make copies and send it to people you think would be interested

DianneA nods

BJ . o O (and invite them to join TI)

DianneA: I am wondering if eventually the money issue becomes the big issue

RoslynT: This reminds me of Tupperware. I have one TI recruit, anyway. An IT leader from my state.

BJ: I think if we steer away from universities, we should be ok as far as money goes...

BJ: because using TI for PD saves the district money...

DianneA: With any volunteer agency once we move to quality, training is needed and the administration of being satisfied that the training delivers the quality is what costs the money

AnneMG agrees

BJ: by not having to host f2f inservices as frequently

BJ: Dianne, that is why we need admin joining the group

DianneA: I am not sure how that follows what I had in mind ...

AnneMG: I don't think my district is worried about hosting f2f... it's the content that needs help in our case.

BJ: part of the content is the follow-up opportunities, Anne...

BJ: so often we go to an inservice, get the 'training' and go back to our classrooms...

AnneMG: I know...

BJ: never getting the opportunity to share successes or failures of the training

BJ: or being able to ask questions

RoslynT: Oh, you people are fantastic. You are so into big picture stuff.

AnneMG: What I'm saying is that my district hasn't been providing effective "training" lately.

BJ: ahhhh....that stinks, Anne...what a waste of everyone's time!

AnneMG: Exactly!

AnneMG: I think that's one area that Tapped In can really address.

AnneMG: Providing options for effective training and follow up.

BJ nods. That is definitely one of the many strengths of the interface

AnneMG: Now all I have to do is convince them to open up the chat port.

BJ: you read the FAQ where only the incoming port has to be opened?

AnneMG: Yes, but my district has everything so locked down, that it's impossible to get them to open anything up.

RoslynT: That is my problem too, Anne. I can only partially demonstrate Tapped In at school as the chat is blocked.

RoslynT: I can show my links and the groups I think.

DianneA: So that is another issue that needs to be highlighted and considered ..

AnneMG: I can show everything else, but I can't chat.

AnneMG: Yes.

AnneMG: But, again, it's the admin. who make that decision.

RoslynT: It's not fair. I have tried to address the issue but it's not worth my time. I don't know enough about the ports technically.

AnneMG: I do know enough, and it hasn't gotten me anywhere.

BJ: the Director of Tapped In is willing to send a document to your district if you need validation of Tapped In's education values

RoslynT: It's very difficult to get people to admit who actually makes the decision about these things. In a large department such as ours you just don't know who to talk to.

AnneMG: Well, I'm kind of going over the head of the person who decides this stuff by going to my Superintendent.

BJ: Anne, you can find some good documentation on TI at

<http://ti2.sri.com/tappedin/web/papers/>

AnneMG: I am going to my October meeting well armed, I can assure you.

AnneMG: with information, that is.

AnneMG: lol

BJ chuckles.

AnneMG: It's such a shame that so much stuff has such negative connotations anymore.

AnneMG: In any case, that's off the subject.

BJ: ok...I've not made dinner yet and need to go find something to feed hubby.

DianneA: Sorry, all, but I am going to have to wrap for now. I'll take the transcript and post it to the Group Room, and see if I can start some discussion threads from it. Then we can check how we are going

BJ: Thanks for joining the discussion, Anne.

AnneMG: As part of the whole Keystones thing, I'm giving a presentation to my school board as well. Maybe I can get a plug in.

BJ: Thanks Dianne

AnneMG: Thanks BJ.

AnneMG: Thank Dianne

AnneMG: Thanks Roslyn

BJ: Anne, I think there is going to be an article in one of the IU newsletters out your way

DianneA: Thanks to you all

BJ . o O (I wrote something for Lance)

AnneMG: It's been great talking to you!

BJ: Thanks for your input, Roslyn

AnneMG: Great! Maybe that'll generate some interest.

BJ waves goodnight

AnneMG: I'll highlight it and post it in my school.

AnneMG: Goodnight!