

**Career Development 2017**  
**37<sup>th</sup> National Future of Education Technology Conference**  
**24-27 Jan 2017**  
**Orlando, FL**  
**Pete Swanson, Principal**  
**McNeil Canyon Elementary School**

This year I was able to use my career development grant to attend the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Future of Education Technology Conference(FETC). This was my first opportunity to attend this annual conference. It provided a great opportunity to meet colleagues from around our nation and 40 other countries who are successfully using technology to educate their students and lead their sites.

I selected this conference because of the leadership focus of the presenters with a strong background of educational technology. I also was interested in continuing to cultivate connections with other educators outside of Alaska to give me some fresh perspective and cross pollination of ideas.

The conference provided five program tracks that focused on Administrators, Information Technology, Educators, Special Education, and Early Learning. The keynote speakers were excellent choices for promoting new technologies. Margo Day(Microsoft), Dan Lejerskar(EON Reality), Tyler Sussman(Summit Learning), and Hall Davidson(Discovery Education) kicked it off together with a shared keynote that introduced us to brand new technologies. Michael Meechin followed the next day with a high energy presentation that challenged us to implement high-impact instructional strategies to meet the needs of our students. Michael is a current high school principal who is excited about working with and for his students. He had a great concurrent session that I was able to attend where he introduced us to Sixty instructional technologies in 60 minutes. He is a dynamic presenter and educator. The last day's keynote was another shared presentation by Adam Bellow(Breakout EDU), Hall Davidson(Discovery Education), Leslie Fisher(leslifisher.com), and Kathy Schrock(kackl!) where they shared some

of the latest, most exciting gadgets, apps, hardware and software in educational technology.

Between these special keynotes I was able to attend several program sessions dealing with specific educational uses of technology. Some of those uses that are being extensively applied across the curriculums by educators at all levels are free programs. These free tools, available to anyone with web access, continue to have extensive possibilities for applications in education. The incredible tools that are available just at the Google site are a tremendous resource that is just waiting to be used instructionally. One session that I attended was facilitated by the director of [lesliefisher.com](http://lesliefisher.com) and she gave us a look at many different tools that are available free to educators anywhere there is web access. I also came away from some of these program sessions thinking that we really have a long way to go in terms of true integration of these tools. We are making some good progress though. This is especially true when I review that just nine years ago when I went to my first CUE conference in 2008 we did not even have access to the Google tools.

When the conference ended I felt encouraged by the ideas and the discussion that had occurred. It also challenged me again to think beyond my local area of responsibility and to somehow work for change that will affect our district. Our district is blessed with a great technological infrastructure but we still desperately need to increase our capacity for the integration of technology. I was also pleased with what I had learned and excited to share those ideas, which I think indicates a successful experience. Many thanks to all of the individuals in our district that support on going professional development for educators and make it possible for me to attend these kinds of high quality programs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dusk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

2/2/17