One story about three firsts which I was involved with…

1. When I was Superintendent in Easton I started the Superintendents' Technology Task Force which 18 (it was 1991) years later morphed into the MASS Technology Committee.

Peter Finn, the Executive Director of MASS at the time, was extraordinarily supportive and contributed money for a mailing which was designed by Apple for the first Superintendents' Technology Conference held in MA. Collyer Crumb, a Harvard Business School Professor who was pioneering the use of technology for instruction was our keynote and Jim Lengel, then at Apple, Katie Spinos and I role played a school meeting at which we discussed how to use technology for instruction and productivity.

It was first technology professional development seminar targeted to superintendents in Massachusetts. The MASS Task Force went on to institute and host the annual Superintendents' Technology Leadership Conference and to partner in a major Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation grant. We felt that leadership needed to come from the superintendents' and the principals' levels: the use of technology had to be systemic.

At the beginning of the 21st century, after many years of suggestion, MASS and MassCUE joined forces to mount one technology conference for MA.

2. I was a high school principal in Hamilton-Wenham when I purchased my first Mac, 256K portable. It was the square box with matching soft case which made it possible to transport and was referred as the fat Mac (a play on the McDonald's hamburger). I was just beginning to determine how to use it when I was invited to the first annual MassCUE meeting to show off my computer. I was a novelty-- a principal who had a computer and could travel!

I packed the precious machine in the aforementioned carrying case and drove to a school district in central Massachusetts (I think it was in Marlborough). This session was truly hands on…a dozen 'pioneers', almost entirely Instructional Technology Specialists in the schools and I, trying to figure out how this computer worked and beginning to envision what it could do for schools

3. In January, 2002, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, David Driscoll, a former superintendent and active supporter of educational technology, created the ETAC (Educational Technology Advisory Council) to advise him and the Board of Education about policy issues and developing standards for the use of technology in the schools.

I served as the first chair, working with the DoE liaison, Connie Louie, to develop a plan, establish protocols, call meetings and populate the website. One requirement was an annual report of the work of the Council.

The rest, in all three cases, is history.

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