

"411" Article

Vijay Sonty, CIO, upon arrival to the district immediately determined that ETS needed a Project Management Office (PMO). The PMO would allow the department to better position, track and align projects with the district's long-term strategic goals. The need for a PMO was previously documented in the District's five year Technology Plan. ETS needed a standard process put into place and a set of procedures implemented for all of the district wide technology initiatives. Establishing a PMO became one of the High Priority Blueprint projects.

Becky Schmaus had joined the ETS department one year ago and was instrumental in setting up the Enterprise Project Management System for the department. "I called upon Becky Schmaus to lead the implementation of the blueprint project to develop a Project Management Office. She was given 90 days to setup the entire system and to get all of our other 84 blueprint projects on-line" said Vijay Sonty. Pcube (an Enterprise PMO consulting company) and Microsoft joined Becky to help ETS develop an enterprise wide process.

Becky has worked with all of the Directors within ETS to get detailed project plans setup for the original 84 projects, and has also helped them add all of the new projects into the new Enterprise Project Management System. The new PMO process and procedures will help ETS develop successful projects now and in the future.

There have been 60 project managers within ETS and over 300 district staff members trained to use the system. "Our new Enterprise PMO system is a tremendous tool to help ETS improve their communications regarding the status of all technology initiatives throughout the district. This new system makes all projects available on-line with extensive reporting capability available in real time!" said Becky Schmaus.

Becky Schmaus completed the project to setup an Enterprise PMO back in early March 2005. Since then she has spent many long hours trying to improve the initial process that has been developed. She has even taken the initiative to improve her own skills. She spent several weeks studying on her own to obtain her Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification. The PMP certification is the most distinguished and valued credential that can be obtained in project management. She was successful in achieving this goal in September 2005.

"It is important that we all continue to grow and improve as a department and as a district. Communication is one of the best places to start" says Becky. (Contact Becky if you would like to attend one of her training sessions. Becky.schmaus@browardschools.com).