NETWORKED RESOURCES

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PROMOTER

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Presentation of the issue:
Three small schools sharing the same management team want to retain their own identity and their position within the community by offering quality education adapted to the realities of the 21st century.

Project description:
The decrease in the number of students foreshadowed a school closure or an institutionalization of the schools. With the help of new technologies, the schools were revitalized by offering networking activities between students from different schools. This is called l'École en réseau (networked schooling). To facilitate and have a more effective governance of the three institutions, the three governing boards are held at the same time in each school, with a virtual presence of management.

Technically, it was necessary to ensure the quality of the equipment. In legal terms, it was necessary to ensure the process was compliant with the standards.

The key elements to remember according to the promoter:
The management initiative, community and staff mobilization, the desire to maintain a distinct identity per village as well as new technologies were key to the success of the project.

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Summary of the researchers' presentation:
The decrease in the number of students observed in some territories foreshadowed the loss of the institutional status of their schools, and even possible closure. Under the Écoles en réseau project (trendy schools using ICT for teaching, administrative and governance activities), community engagement and the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) have allowed the implementation of networked virtual meetings (NVM). This new collaborative system observed for five groups of three schools, each of these groups managed by a single direction team, makes school governance even more efficient. The Governing Board (GB) meetings for a given group are held simultaneously in each school (different locations), where common topics shared through the virtual exchanges are interspersed with moments of discussions and decisions within each of the boards. Management participates to the three meetings through the web conferencing platform.

The presentation centered on the different issues and gains, the key players and the operationalization process of the NVMs.

The key elements to remember according to the researchers:
- mobilization of the communities served;
- leadership of the management team and GB chairman;
- support from the school board;
- proper functioning of the equipment is crucial;
- preparation for the meetings is particularly important compared to traditional meetings.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: All linked documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.

Prezi presentation from Michel Boyer and Nicolas Soumis, Sherbrooke University, and Alexander Nero, Commission scolaire des Sommets