

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting Monday, January 5, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

Members Present:

DJ Harper
Joe O'Reilly – via conference phone
Lisa Long – via conference phone
Kimberly Flack

Rosie Escandon
Ted Kraver
Mark Nichols
Cathy Poplin, Chair

Members Not Present:

Sandi Grandberry
Rod Lenniger
Casey Loman

Handouts:

- Agenda for January 5, 2009
- December 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Technology Assisted Project-Based Instruction Program (TAPBI Schools) Annual Report Executive Summary
- iNACOL – Fast Facts About Online Learning
- Virtual Schools and Online Learning: How It Works
- ELTF Use of Data to Support eLearning (online learning) in Arizona eLearning and the Budget
- ELTF Professional Development in Arizona
- Long-Range Strategic Goals for the Arizona Technology Plan Draft and Tech Plan Feedback Information

Welcome and Introduction – *The meeting is recorded on tape and is available for full review.*

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked Hank Stabler to begin by introducing himself and give a brief update.

- Hank Stabler, ADE Consultant, had no updates.
- Mark Nichols, with ASU/IDEAL, introduced himself and stated he listened to a podcast by Thomas Freidman titled *The World is Flat 3.0*. The podcast can be found within iTunesU under the top twenty most popular podcasts. When you listen to the podcast, Mark suggests that you substitute the word environment with the word education and it makes the podcast very interesting.
- DJ Harper, with GITA, no updates.
- Kim Flack, ASSET Eight, introduced herself and informed the ELTF she has been working on a collaborative project in Second Life with PBS. This is a really exciting interactive tour of different educational and historical spots within Second Life that will be connected back to educational online resources and tools that teachers can use.

- Rosy Escandon, with the Cartwright School District, no updates.
- Ted Kraver, with eSATS introduced himself and informed the ELTF he attended the P-20 Data Committee meeting and had the opportunity to speak with a local legislator on the topics of eLearning and the budget. Due to the projected K-12 education budget cuts, many legislators believe eLearning can help carve some major costs out of K-12 education.
 - Cathy Poplin asked Ted if he could provide some concrete examples of how the legislature sees eLearning cutting costs. Ted stated some cuts being considered are all day Kindergarten, English Language Learners, possible cuts to Special Education and shortening the school year. A possible way to solve this would be to add summer courses via online classes to allow students to complete their courses should the school year be shortened. Ted hasn't developed a solution at this time, just making suggestions.
- Joe O'Reilly, with Mesa Unified District Mesa currently has a data warehouse RFP open to the public.
- Lisa Long, Tucson Unified District, southern Arizona is hearing there may be possible cuts to soft capital by 50%. If there is a cut to soft capital by even 25%, it will be difficult to purchase electronic materials which would leave the rest of her district using traditional textbooks.
 - Joe O'Reilly stated that Mesa has already frozen their soft capital in anticipation of the coming cuts.
 - Hank Stabler stated this will provide the perfect opportunity for schools to share library resources. This is one way to help with the budget cuts.
 - Ted Kraver stated the legislature is also looking at schools and libraries sharing resources.
- Cathy Poplin provided each task force member a copy of the 2007-08 Annual Report of TAPBI Schools Executive Summary. Vince Yanez, Deputy Director of the Arizona State Board of Education, provided the Executive Summary to the ELTF. The ELTF discussed the various data contained in the Executive Summary.
 - Hank asked if anyone is working on extrapolating the data from this report. How will this data be helpful? And what information do we get from this data?
 - Cathy stated she couldn't provide an answer, however, Vince Yanez provides this report annually and there may be a summary provided at the next State Board meeting.
 - Hank suggested the ELTF provide questions and recommendations that are relevant to eLearning performance in the state. Hank and Ted will help develop questions and recommendations.
 - Hank asked if Vince Yanez could come to an ELTF meeting to explain the data from the TAPBI Schools Executive Summary.
 - Cathy stated she will invite Vince Yanez to present and provide deeper results to the ELTF.
 - Cathy spoke with Lauren Kielsmeier from the Governor's Office, Ms. Kielsmeier wanted to know where the report was from the ELTF that was due on December 1st. Cathy informed Ms. Kielsmeier that the current Legislation states that the committee of record will create a report based on the findings and after public input by the December 1st deadline.

- Cathy also informed the ELTF, nothing formal has been confirmed, but the next appointment to the ELTF will be Coy Ison with AzTEA. More information to come at the next ELTF meeting.

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2008

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from December for approval. Cathy asked if anyone has any corrections. DJ suggested removing the un-needed verbiage on the first page, second to the last bullet point. Cathy agreed. With no other corrections offered, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the December 15, 2008 minutes. DJ Harper made a motion to accept the December minutes, Ted Kraver seconded the motion, no one opposed. Cathy will have the corrections made and the minutes posted to the ELTF website.

Report by ELTF workgroups – All Members

Cathy asked the ELTF groups to present on the areas of eLearning assigned to them.

- Lisa and Casey have not discussed their area of interest which is to identify Best Practices in other states and in Arizona.
- Ted and Rod need the other groups to complete their areas of interest before they can complete their area on Funding. The transformation team needs to know what everyone else has to further address funding and transformation.
- Joe and Hank reported on “Use of Data to Support eLearning.” Hank gave each task force member a one page report and gave an overview of the report. The ELTF discussed what type of data needs to be gathered and who has access to the data.
- Rosie and Kim reported on Teachers – options to equip teachers with the most effective technology and trainings. Rosy and Kim gave each member a brief report. The ELTF discussed the information from this report.
 - Develop an online registration system that allows for districts, schools, and other LEAs to publicize and conduct registration for professional development opportunities in the state so the data from all the entities listed in our “Current Options” can be collected and disaggregated
 - Develop a portfolio system for individual teachers connected to the online registration system where individuals can upload artifacts and other professional development work they are doing not associated with things they have registered for within the system
 - Connect the registration and portfolio system to AZ Dept of Education’s Certification system and the reporting system for schools and districts regarding Highly Qualified Status
- Cathy and Mark meet regularly to discuss IDEAL. A single sign-on is being developed for IDEAL. The ADE and ASU are working on the issue of how to get additional data from the people that log into IDEAL. IDEAL is currently being funded by the Department of Education. IDEAL has the potential to be the single source for all resources.
- DJ and Ruth have not met to discuss their area of interest -- Policies.
- All members contributed to the Barriers to Implementation. The ELTF made recommendations on what the barriers are for eLearning. Cathy referred to the NACOL handout on *Fast Facts About Online Learning*.

Comment on the Arizona Educational Technology Plan Draft – Brett Hinton

Cathy asked Brett Hinton, Arizona Department of Education, to show the Ed Tech Plan Google site and how the ELTF can provide feedback on the Educational Technology Plan Draft.

Brett gave each ELTF member a handout and displayed the comments website. Members were asked to post their comments and any recommendations they may have to <http://tinyurl.com/08az-techplan-feedback>. To view a copy of the draft technology plan, members were given the following URL <http://tinyurl.com/azedtechplan08>. Cathy asked the ELTF to share the feedback URL with colleagues to obtain as much feedback as possible. All feedback needs to be collected by February 13, 2009.

Lisa Long asked when schools will start using the new technology plan. Brett stated possibly around April/May 2009, late spring, early summer after the State Board of Education approves it. However, it will apply to the next round of E-Rate, not this year's.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2009

The next ELTF meeting will be February 5, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education, Room 417.

Public Testimony

No public comments

Adjourn

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.