

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting Friday, April 04, 2008 10:00am – 12:00pm Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

Brian Sherman – Representing Chris Cummiskey  
Lisa Long – via conference phone  
Rod Lenniger – via conference phone  
Debra Lorenzen  
Rosalina Escandon

Theodore Kraver  
Joseph O'Reilly  
Cathy Poplin, Chair

#### Members Not Present:

Casey Loman  
Mark Nichols  
Sandi Grandberry

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for April 4, 2008
- March 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- eLearning Task Force Preliminary Report March 10, 2008
- NCLB U.S.DOE: Connecting Students to Advanced Courses Online
- Arizona Technology Counts 2008 STEM, The Push to Improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

#### Welcome and Introductions – *The meeting is recorded on tape and available for full review*

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:13 am. Cathy apologized for the late start due to technical difficulties experienced with the conference phone. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked the ELTF members to introduce themselves and give a brief update.

- Theodore Kraver introduced himself and gave a brief update on the Technology Counts 2008 STEM report published by Education Week's. Cathy Poplin informed the ELTF that part of the data collected for the Technology Counts 2008 was supplied by a survey that Cathy completed for Education Week. Cathy reviewed the areas of Technology Use & capacity.
- Debra Lorenzen introduced herself with no updates
- Brian Sherman with GITA was representing Chris Cummiskey and filling in for DJ Harper. Brian updated the ELTF on the Broadband Assessment Galen Updike has been working on. The study, which is basically a feasibility and roadmap for how the Broadband Assessment will work statewide, has been launched. GITA will have the results from the study by June. The focus of the study will be on:
  - data that is available
  - data that GITA has
  - data that is available but GITA doesn't have
  - building a database framework
  - procedures of how the Broadband Assessment should be conducted,
  - best practices in other states and countries
- Joe O'Reilly introduced himself with no updates
- Rosalina Escandon introduced herself and informed the ELTF that the technology conference for Cartwright School District held last month went well.

- Hank Stabler, ADE consultant, introduced himself and gave an update on an article in the newspaper regarding Arizona's standing on the percentage of funds spent for students, based on the U.S. Government's Census Department. Arizona is listed third from the bottom.
- Ruth Catalano, ADE consultant, introduced herself with no updates
- Cathy Poplin introduced herself and informed the ELTF that the Arizona Department of Education will be revising the Educational Technology Plan. The ELTF will be one of the review groups. The Arizona Department of Education is also revising the Educational Technology Standards to be based upon the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. We are also completing the "Million Dollar School" review as well as the Middle School Math RFP. Cathy also gave to each ELTF member a copy of the **U.S.DOE: Connecting Students to Advanced Courses Online** publication. The publication covers case studies and experiences from various states, Cathy asked everyone to review the publication for further discussion at the next ELTF meeting.

Guests: Sean Warren with SAIS Institute and Larissa Krew with Carnegie Learning.

### **Approval of the Minutes from March 7, 2008**

Cathy Poplin asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from March for approval. ELTF members noted no changes. Joseph O'Reilly made a motion to accept the minutes and Theodore Kraver seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted the ADE website.

### **Update on Middle School Math RFP Update and RRP Evaluation – Hank Stabler**

Hank Stabler informed the ELTF that the RFP review committee has completed the demonstration phase of the process and are nearing the final decision phase. Vendors will then be allowed to submit a "Best and Final Offer." Based on that, a decision will be made with recommendations going to the JLBC by April or May.

### **Review of Preliminary Legislative Report – Cathy Poplin**

Cathy Poplin has to do a report on the eLearning Task Force to the Legislature. Cathy gave each member of the ELTF a copy of the preliminary report. The preliminary report was created for Legislatures who requested an update while the ELTF bill was being reviewed by the Senate Education Committee. Cathy asked the ELTF members for feedback, additional information and recommendations that should be included in the final report. Cathy highlighted the Future Focus and Recommendations section of the preliminary report. ELTF members reviewed and discussed the preliminary report.

### **Recommendations for Legislature to include in the Annual Report – Cathy Poplin**

Theodore Kraver stated that one of the responsibilities of the ELTF is to physically get engaged with other states in regards to eLearning. A few ELTF members attended NECC last year. Theodore suggested the ELTF travel to other eLearning summits, conferences and workshops.

Joseph O'Reilly suggested making a change to the section that describes who the ELTF members are by including why that member is on the committee and their role. Joseph also suggested rearranging the "Additional ELTF Responsibilities" section of the report. Cathy noted the changes and will rearrange this section of the final report accordingly.

Rod Lenniger perceives the ELTF as an assessment, proposal and recommendations group, while the preliminary report comes across as more action oriented. Rod recommended the ELTF propose and map out a common vision. Rod also recommended the ELTF should be the central repository for eLearning in Arizona. The ELTF should be able to provide to the Legislature and other entities

interested in eLearning all the eLearning opportunities available in Arizona, currently the ELTF is not aware of all Arizona has to offer in the area of eLearning. The goals for the ELTF should be divided into two categories, long term and short term.

The ELTF discussed the various changes to the preliminary report. Theodore Kraver made the motion to approve the preliminary report and allow Cathy Poplin to make revisions or corrections based on the recommendations of the ELTF members. Rosalina Escandon seconded motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

Cathy asked the ELTF if there were any specific recommendations to the Legislatures about what the ELTF is doing. Theodore suggested thinking the recommendations over to allow time to consider the recommendations. The ELTF agreed to ponder the recommendations and Cathy would post the report to Google Docs and allow everyone to comment on them.

Cathy informed the ELTF that after this year the recommendations and annual report will be made in December to have the report ready for the January Legislative session.

### **Phone Conference Susan Patrick, President and Chief Executive Officer of the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL)**

Susan Patrick joined the ELTF meeting via conference call. Cathy Poplin introduced Susan Patrick as the President and CEO of the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL). NACOL keeps track of international progress in the area of e-learning. Cathy asked the ELTF members to introduce themselves, so Susan would know who was in the room as well as on the phone. Susan was in Arizona from 1999 until October 2002. She left Arizona to go to the US DOE in Educational Technology and has been with NACOL for the last 2 years.

NACOL is the leading non-profit advocacy organization based in Washington, DC that is focused entirely on online learning in K-12 schools. NACOL has over 2000 members and represents virtual school programs across the country at the state level, the district level, the cyber charter schools as well as the online providers. They have a broad range of interests. NACOL also is keeping track of what is happening internationally and have done an internal survey. In the last 5 years Susan has been to 48 of the 50 states to see what they have been doing. That was partially in preparation for writing the National Educational Technology Plan.

Details of Susan Patrick's information will be posted at a later time.

### **Public Testimony**

No guest comments

### **Next Meeting**

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be May 1, 2008.

### **Adjourn**

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm