

Arizona E-Learning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday April 5, 2007

10:00am – 12:00pm

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

Members Present:

Rosalina Escandon
Rod Lenniger
Joseph O'Reilly
Cathy Poplin

Debra Lorenzen
Theodore Kraver
DJ Harper (representing Chris Cummiskey)

Members Not Present:

Lisa Long
Jerry D'Agostino

Sandi Grandberry

Handouts:

- Washington Post: Software's benefits on tests in doubt –
- Eb70405USDOE20042005 Ed Software Test
- Trujillo Commission on Online Education *Final Findings & Recommendations*
- eSchool News: Best Practices in School Technology *K-20 Success Stories and Case Studies Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning*
- K-12 Online Learning A Survey on U.S. School District Administrators
- SREB Educational Technology Cooperative: Technical Guidelines for Digital Learning Content Development, Evaluation, Selection, Acquisition and Use
- Email from SETDA: Software's Benefits On Tests In Doubt
- Responses to E-Learning Pilot Project RFI
- Project Investment Justification (PIJ)
- 4th Draft of the RFP

Welcome and Introduction – Reminder that the meeting is recorded on tape and available for full review.

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Cathy asked Task Force members for updates.

- Theodore Kraver
 - E-Learning Study on software curriculum products for 2004-2005; article was from the Washington Post. The study did not show that technology made a difference in student achievement and painted educational technology in a very negative way.
 - Legislative Bill update (HB 2742) - The House heard the E-Learning bill for \$10 million by Rep. Mark Anderson; everything is in the budget, when the budget is

passed the bill will automatically be passed. Ted was not sure if we will get all \$10 million.

- Cathy Poplin asked if there was anything we can do to help get the HB2742 passed?
- Ted suggested 2-3 people from a particular district contact their legislative representative via email or call.
- Rod Lenniger brought the final findings & recommendations from the Trujillo Commission on Online Education. And a similar article from eSchool News Best Practices.
- Debra Lorenzen informed the Task Force that ADE will be part of a 10 state formative assessment program. ADE will identify two high schools within the state to participate. ASSET was brought in to help create an online environment for these two high school study teams to work with. The content is provided by the grant; the content was created by formative assessment guru Rick Stiggins. Debra will keep the Task Force updated as this program develops.
- Rosalina Escandon briefed the Task Force about her district's tech conference. Had a wonderful turn out, mostly hands on, which the teachers liked more than just lectures. Looking into having the conference again next year, maybe doing it in October, instead of March.
- Cathy Poplin began her update and handed out an email from SETDA (State Education Technology Director's Association) refuting a national study on math software that was just released by the US DOE. SETDA is also working with other organizations to propose a new Ed Tech program within the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind.
- Cathy went to the COSN conference last week. The main focal point of the conference was 1-to-1 learning. An organization called The Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation (AALF) was there. Their presentation was on *Leading 1-to-1 Summit: The Essential Blueprint for Superintendents and Principals*; which ties into our 1-to-1 learning. AALF is having more workshops if anyone is interested, Cathy has more information.

Responses to E-Learning Pilot Project RFI

Task Force has received twenty-five responses from various vendors. If there are any other vendors that are interested or may be more qualified please have them respond to the RFI. Cathy asked the Task Force how they would like to receive the summary of the RFI - either a detailed summary or an executive summary. Ted requested a detailed summary and the other members requested an executive summary.

Project Investment Justification (PIJ)

Cathy gave each member a PIJ packet to help answer questions regarding the PIJ. When it comes to writing the PIJ, this is what will have to fill out. Rod Lenniger suggested that when it comes to writing the PIJ, we contact other agencies for advice.

E-Learning in Other States – Hank Stabler

Hank Stabler took this time to share with the Task Force how other states are developing their online learning. Hank gave a summary of the handouts he gave to each member; each state is approaching E-Learning differently. The variables are as follows:

- Twenty-four states have state led programs

- Twenty-six have specific policies in place at the state level
- Ten states have their programs run by the Department of Education
- Other states have their programs run by a university (such as California)
- Some programs run self paced
- Some programs are face to face
- Don't differentiate between online teachers
- The use of virtual classrooms
- Virtual resources – passing out websites
- Virtual courses
- Teaching & professional development
 - Use part time teachers
 - Providing online courses for teachers
- Where do the courses come from?
 - Developed locally
 - A few states go out & buy
 - Local universities develop

Senator John Huppenthal Vision for SB1512

Senator John Huppenthal arrived and shared his passion and insights into the SB1512 legislation. As an author of the bill, he began by sharing his vision for SB1512. Over the years, he noticed that the high performance companies around the country measured their *total* performance of the company and provided feedback to the company in a positive light. The low performance companies measured their performance on an *individual* level and provided that feed back to the company in a positive light. He based SB1512 on the principle of reporting on total performance.

The legislation states that classroom technology will be used to measure the performance of said classroom on *a real time basis* and in an environment where the computer will provide the student testing (in a progressive manner) and then evaluate the student's performance. Senator Huppenthal indicated that this meant to total each student's performance and calculate the total performance of the whole classroom. Each child would know where they were in relation to the total classroom performance.

Senator Huppenthal asked Task Force if they had any questions:

- *Q. What if the vendors we ask don't have a product like the one we are looking for?*
A. There is enough money in the budget to create the product we need.
- *Q. With a focus on individual learning, how do you handle students at different levels of learning?*
A. This environment will allow for one student to be on a different level than another student. Ex. One child on 2nd grade level & another on 3rd grade level. In the high performance companies, collaboration is a must. We must reinforce the "total performance" of the classroom.
- *Q. How do we implement motivation?*
A. Fundamentals of human motivation (2nd & 3rd points are the most important)
 1. **Survive** – Learn

The idea that we need to “learn” in order to survive is not prevalent in today’s society.

2. **Join** – Join a team, students will work in a team setting
3. **Gain Status** - To show the students their “status” we must rank the students. Example: 1st, 2nd, 3rd...etc. The only way to move up in ranking is to be positive with their peers. Reward the team not the individual (intrinsic values verses extrinsic values) Example given: Everyone works as a team to catch the elephant; everyone gets the reward for catching the elephant, just a little higher reward to those with a higher performance.

(Senator John Huppenthal left the meeting to return to Arizona Legislature which was in session.) Task Force members decided that the vision needs to be stated clearly in the RFP so vendors will understand what is needed for “motivational gain”.

Public Testimony

Three visitors were present:

Kathy Elerick – Learning Station

John Kelly – Triadvocates

Doris Sawner – Educational Options - Vendor

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm