

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting Wednesday, April 8, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

DJ Harper	Sandi Grandberry
Coy Ison	Ted Kraver
Kim Flack	Cathy Poplin, Chair
Nathan Myers Representing Joe O'Reilly	

#### Members Not Present:

Rosy Escandon  
Mark Nichols

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for April 8, 2009
- March 6, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- *Arizona Breaking Away From Tradition – E-Education Expands Opportunities for Raising Achievement* a special state-focused supplement to Education Week's Technology Counts 2009
- IDEAL By the Numbers – March 2009
- 2008-2009 eLearning Task Force Report and Recommendations Draft
- 2009 NROC Network Membership Options

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and began by asking Hank Stabler to begin with the introductions.

- Hank Stabler, ADE Consultant, no updates
- Coy Ison, Executive Director of AzTEA, informed the task force of the up-coming AzTEA WOW Conference on May 2, 2009 at the Raymond Kellis High School in Peoria Unified School District. Coy recently purchased a Kindle II; Coy suggested the ELTF research the Kindle and/or other types of “flex-books” when considering one-to-one laptop initiatives. Coy will send more information regarding “flex-books” to Cathy to share with the ELTF.
- DJ Harper, GITA, informed the ELTF that the Federal Government has not established a set of guidelines to determine how the funds will be distributed with regards to the broadband stimulus funds. Arizona is working with 15-20 other states to help influence the Federal Government in the direction that would allow more equitable distribution of broadband stimulus funds based on population, free and reduced lunch, etc. GITA is gathering comments from the public at this time.

- Cathy asked DJ to send the link to the public comments for the broadband initiative. DJ stated he will send the link to Cathy.
- Cathy asked if the broadband stimulus can be dovetailed with E-Rate. DJ was not sure but would inquire and let the ELTF know.
- DJ informed the ELTF that GITA will have a new director starting next week, Chad Kirkpatrick. DJ stated Mr. Kirkpatrick has outlined three priorities for GITA.
  - Improve IT planning
  - Look at IT projects in the state to verify the necessity of the project and if the resources for said projects could not be leveraged by another state agency to help minimize the costs associated with running said projects.
  - Information Security/Information Privacy
- Nathan Myers, representing Joe O'Reilly with Mesa Public Schools, introduced himself with no updates.
- Kim Flack, ASSET Eight, introduced herself and informed the ELTF that PBS has free, new downloadable, streaming clips, all STEM related from Nova and Nature. All are aligned to the state standards, down to the PO. The information may be accessed through [www.teachersdomain.org](http://www.teachersdomain.org). All Professional Development materials for teachers will be aligned to the new ISTE standards by summer. ASSET Educator Member Conference is on June 6, 2009. There will be three strands covered at the conference, a STEM Strand, a Project-Based Strand, and an Early Childhood Strand. There will be two keynote speakers, one of the keynote speakers is Lisa Hensen, Jim Hensen's daughter. Lisa is the creator of *Sid the Science Kid* which is a program for use in pre-school to teach pre-school students inquiry skills. Lisa Hensen will be speaking specifically on the proprietary development done on digital puppetry animation.
- Sandi Grandberry, For the Love of Software, introduced herself, no update.
- Ted Kraver, eSATS, introduced himself, due to the current budget issues the Legislature is not be passing any new Legislation. With this in mind, organizations like ABEC (Arizona Business in Education Council) and ATIC (Arizona Technology Information Council) are coming up with a general approach to the Legislature with regards to what they would like to see happening once new legislation begins. Their focal point is data and broadband. Ted recommended the ELTF focus more on the area of funding, data and broadband as well.
- Krystal Nesbitt, Administrative Assistant under Cathy Poplin/ELTF, introduced herself with no updates.
- Cathy Poplin, Arizona Department of Education, introduced herself and asked the ELTF to see the handout on *Arizona Breaking Away From Tradition – E-Education Expands Opportunities for Raising Achievement* a special state-focused supplement to Education Week's Technology Counts 2009. Cathy gave a brief review of the article and informed the ELTF she uses this article when speaking to Legislatures and/or others to show Arizona statistics.

### **Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2009**

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from March for approval. Sandi Grandberry noted the misspelling of her name on page 2 of the minutes. With no further corrections offered, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the March minutes. DJ Harper made a

motion to accept the minutes with corrections, Sandi Grandberry seconded, no one opposed. Cathy will have the corrections made and the minutes posted to the ELTF website.

### **Legislative Updates (State Activities and Federal ARRA) – Various ELTF members**

Cathy wanted to share with the ELTF the latest information regarding the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) which is no longer referred to as the “stimulus package”. Cathy shared with the task force an article in the Arizona Republic *\$17.4 Million to Help Schools in Arizona go High Tech*. The funds going toward educational technology will be disbursed through the existing federal EETT program. The breakdown is an estimated \$12.4 million in ARRA funding and \$5 mil in 09-10 regular allocation. The date for disbursement is not clear at this time, could be late September or early October. Cathy stated she unsure if the funds will be disbursed all in one sum or if it will be split. Also it has not been determined how the Federal Government will regulate the accountability aspect of the funds, Cathy has been informed that there will be “unprecedented accountability”. More information will be forthcoming. Cathy will keep the ELTF informed.

### **Review ELTF Legislative Report – Cathy Poplin**

Cathy has completed the first draft of the ELTF Legislative report. Cathy reviewed the draft report with the ELTF. Due to time constraints, Cathy asked the task force members to review the draft report with close attention to the ELTF recommendations section of the report and send their comments and suggestions to her within a week. Cathy will send the task force an electronic version of the draft report.

### **Presentation of NROC and HippoCampus – Terri Rowenhorst, NROC Membership Director for Monterey Institute for Technology and Education**

<http://www.montereyinstitute.org/nroc/> & <http://www.hippocampus.org/>

Cathy informed the ELTF that student access will be coming to IDEAL this fall in a small pilot project. IDEAL will be using NROC (National Repository of Online Courses), through a membership at the agency level. The agency level is a two-year term agreement.

Terri Rowenhorst joined the ELTF meeting via conference phone. Cathy asked the ELTF to introduce themselves. Terri gave the ELTF brief background information on OER (Open Educational Resources). NROC began in 2004, initially funded by the Hewlett Foundation and are now on their third round of Hewlett funding. Hewlett just recently funded NROC for an additional \$1.5 million to create a brand new Next Generation Algebra I course, coming out in the summer of 2010. NROC proposed to Hewlett that they would do more than just house OER they would also provide editorial services as well. NROC will review and complete content posted by its members. NROC provides complete courses with learning object architecture to allow users to pick and choose the objects within a course or use objects within different courses. To ensure the learning objects presented are complete and provide full content. Tools are available to assist with the development and creation of learning objects.

The NROC public distribution vehicle and the public face for NROC is Hippocampus. <http://www.hippocampus.org/> Hippocampus is free to individual teachers and parents but not for

institution use. Institutions are asked to join as a member to the NROC Network. Terri gave a tour of the Hippocampus website.

Assessments are available in HTML format on the public website. There is a secure set of assessments that are available to members only. Members also have access to instructor and student guides with answer keys along with other resources not available on the public site to assist with adapting the content for curriculum purposes. Public Hippocampus does not have state standard correlations, member Hippocampus does.

Cathy informed the ELTF that the courses being shown by Terri are going to be used within the IDEAL content manager. Nathan Myers asked in regards to the learning objects being moved from one LMS to another LMS (Learning Management System), how does NROC stand on their SCORM and compliancy. Terri responded NROC is SCORM conformant, the same as CMS. All assessments can be uploaded into any of the assessment engines within the course management system. Hippocampus can be used within most popular CMS and repositories. Customizable by the teacher, district and/or on the state level.

Ted Kraver asked Terri to list a few of their strengths and weaknesses in regards to the presentations, demonstrations and real time formative assessments within the courses. Terri stated a major strength would be in the multimedia library. 90% of the library has multimedia rich presentations available. However, most assessments are not open ended so they can be graded by the computer. NROC has noticed this is an area where the majority of teachers begin to customize the objects by creating their own assessment.

Professional development resources are available in at the NROC Network community site, including free access to monthly webinars. A forum for collaborative discussions, problem solving, resource sharing, content development, and more is also available. Teachers are able to bookmark resources, access to downloadable iPod and MP3 files of multimedia content from select NROC courses.

Cathy will share the NROC presentation with the ELTF. Cathy will keep the task force informed as more develops with NROC.

**Next Meeting: May 6, 2009**

The next ELTF meeting will be May 6, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education, conference room 417. Cathy asked the ELTF to review the ELTF report, paying close attention to the recommendations portion of the report and return with additional recommendations and/or corrections at the next meeting.

**Public Testimony**

No public comments

**Adjourn**

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.