

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, May 01, 2008

10:00am – 12:00pm

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

DJ Harper – Representing Chris Cummiskey  
Debra Lorenzen  
Theodore Kraver  
Sandi Grandberry

Mark Nichols  
Cathy Poplin, Chair

#### Members Not Present:

Lisa Long  
Rosalina Escandon  
Casey Loman  
Joseph O'Reilly  
Rod Lenniger

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for May 1, 2008
- April 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Announcement: Middle School Math Pilot Directions & Application
- GAZEL Strategy and Policy Summit 2008 Issues and Recommendations Summary Report – Theodore Kraver

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked the ELTF members to introduce themselves and give a brief update.

- Mark Nichols introduced himself and gave a brief update on IDEAL. Google sites have been added to the IDEAL website. The Google site adds features such as Wikis and templates to assist with collaborations. Mark also gave an update on the State Technology Plan Revision Committee. The first session of the committee was April 18, 2008. The committee started by looking at other technology plans already in existence to begin the work on the update for the Arizona technology plan.
- DJ Harper with GITA was representing Chris Cummiskey. DJ updated the ELTF on the Broadband Assessment. The assessment will allow GITA to know where Broadband access currently is available in Arizona; this will allow GITA to assist the rural areas with obtaining Broadband access. GITA is also working with the Department of Education to encourage schools and libraries to apply for E-Rate funds. E-Rate is a federally funded program that assists schools & libraries with their telephone, Internet and Broadband access costs. Arizona currently receives approximately \$60,000,000 in E-Rate funds. It is estimated that Arizona could receive \$160,000,000, if more schools and libraries applied for E-Rate funds.
- Debra Lorenzen introduced herself and gave an update on a Classroom Innovator program. They selected eighteen teachers from across the state to be the liaison between

public television and the schools. The teachers will be trained by the public television staff on how to use PBS Digital Resources.

- Sandi Grandberry introduced herself and gave an update on the wireless Amazon Kindle book reader. All of the books are transmitted to the device without the use of wires or cables. The books are normally transmitted within two minutes. Sandi is currently looking into obtaining text books on the Kindle.
- Theodore Kraver introduced himself and gave an update on HB2064. HB2064 has passed out of the majority caucus and will be going before the Legislative House for a floor vote.
- Cathy Poplin introduced herself and gave an update on the E-Rate Task Force. The E-Rate Task Force is looking at a model that would provide much more support at the district and school levels when it comes to applying for E-Rate. Cathy will keep the ELTF informed as more develops. The Instructional Technology Systems Pilot Grant has been removed due to the state budget deficit; the three finalists have been informed of this.
- Cathy asked the ELTF members if anyone would like to attend the NECC conference this year, please contact Cathy's office to assist with registration.

Guests: Larissa Krew with Carnegie Learning and Brett Hinton with the Department of Education, Educational Technology.

#### **Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2008**

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

#### **Update on Middle School Math RFP Evaluation – Brett Hinton/Cathy Poplin**

Cathy introduced Brett Hinton, Technology Program Specialist with ADE under Cathy Poplin. Brett informed the ELTF that the math pilot evaluation process is coming to an end. There is appears to be a tie between two of the vendors. Both have many strong areas. The IT Department is currently conducting evaluations on the vendor information they were to evaluate. Our procurement department will help guide us in the final decision process. We are hoping to have the recommendations to the JLBC by the end of next week.

Theodore Kraver asked if there could be a joint award, since there is a tie between two vendors. Ruth Catalano, ADE consultant, stated per the RFP only one vendor could be awarded.

#### **Final Review of Middle School Math Application – Cathy Poplin**

Cathy asked if the ELTF would allow two of the three finalists from the Instructional Technology Systems Pilot Grant to apply for the Middle School Math Pilot without going through another application process. After much discussion, it was decided that the finalists interested in applying for the Math Pilot Project would not have to rewrite the portions of the Math Pilot that were applicable but would submit their applications with references made to their \$1million grant. They will be rated on the quality of their application based on the scoring rubric along with the other applicants. ADE has 5 copies of the \$1 million grants on file. However, any question different from the \$1 million grant pilot application would need to be answered and included in their Middle School Math application. It was noted that the application for the

Instructional Technology Systems Pilot Grant was much more rigorous and granular what is required for than the Middle School Math Pilot Application.

### **Review of Legislative Report and Setting the Direction of 2008-09 – Cathy Poplin/Theodore Kraver**

Cathy Poplin shared with the ELTF the copies of the ELTF Legislative Report she will sent to the Legislature.

Theodore Kraver gave each member a copy of the GAZEL Strategy and Policy Summit 2008: Issues and Recommendations Summary Report. Theodore gave an overview of the GAZEL report. Theodore proposed that the ELTF take on a Policy and Leadership role in regards to eLearning for K-12 education in the state of Arizona. Theodore stated the ELTF needs to develop a nine year strategic plan (the life of the ELTF). Theodore would like for the ELTF to create our own model for Transforming Education for Arizona in the area of eLearning. Cathy asked how the ELTF would accomplish finding out what the state has to offer in regards to eLearning. Sandi Grandberry stated we need to start at the bottom. Find out what is currently available in the area of eLearning. Mark Nichols said he will check with the Research Department at ASU to see if they have any data in the area of eLearning. Cathy suggested putting out a survey to accumulate data on what is available. Cathy asked each member to develop a question or two in their area of appointment to the ELTF. The survey will help guide ELTF in making decisions on eLearning in Arizona. Cathy asked each member to bring their questions for the “Needs Assessment” survey to the next meeting.

### **Potential Meeting Dates – Cathy Poplin**

Cathy sent each ELTF member a link to complete an online survey to select the summer meeting dates for the ELTF. Only seven people completed the survey, the majority selected the next meeting date for June 2, 2008. Cathy will ask those that have not taken the survey to complete the survey.

### **Next Meeting**

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be June 2, 2008.

### **Public Testimony**

No guest comments

### **Adjourn**

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am