

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, June 2, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

Members Present:

DJ Harper – Representing Chris Cummiskey

Lisa Long (Arrived at 11:30 am)

Ted Kraver

Joseph O'Reilly

Mark Nichols

Cathy Poplin, Chair

Members Not Present:

Casey Loman

Debra Lorenzen

Rosalina Escandon

Sandi Grandberry

Rod Lenniger

Handouts:

- Agenda for June 2, 2008
- May 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Copy of memo sent to Superintendents, Charter Holders and Principals regarding the eLearning Middle School Math Pilot
- HB2064 with Conference Committee Amendment (AZ eLearning Task Force)
- eLearning in K-12 Schools, Community Colleges and Universities
- eLearning Task Force Report from the GAZEL Policy-Strategy Session
- HB2475 Amendments/Barbara Leff
- Technology Professional Development Initiative for Educators

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked the ELTF members to introduce themselves and give a brief update.

- Ted Kraver introduced himself and gave a brief update on the GAZEL Summit break out group voting results on e-learning.
- Joseph O'Reilly gave a brief update on a formative assessment system Mesa School District will be using to evaluate the impact on teacher's practices and instructions. The University of Texas will evaluate the data. Mesa School District will receive \$50,000 a year for the next two years to do this study.
- DJ Harper informed the ELTF that GITA is now overseeing the statewide Information Security and Privacy Office. This is a new office that was created about one year ago. This office will be overseeing the security and privacy for all state agencies. At some point and time the Security and Privacy Office will want to collaborate with the ELTF regarding security and privacy issues for the state of Arizona.
- Mark Nichols introduced himself and informed the ELTF that the Arizona Technology Plan Revision Committee was discussing security and privacy issues while working on the Technology Plan Revisions.

- Hank Stabler gave a brief update on the Arizona Technology Plan Revision Committee. The committee discussed the same issues the ELTF has been discussing as future areas of interest the ELTF would like to tackle. The committee has been reviewing various states' current technology plans to assist with the development of the Arizona technology plan.
- Cathy Poplin introduced herself and added that the Technology Plan Revision Committee is also working on a technology plan process that the school districts can follow when they are developing their technology plans. Cathy also informed the ELTF that she is preparing for the NECC Conference coming up June 29th to July 3rd. Also, Arizona has been added as a Thinkfinity state partner and soon the 4,000 Thinkfinity lesson plan, aligned to AZ standards, will be added to IDEAL's Learning Resource Manager. Mark's team from ASU is taking the lead on this.

Middle School Math RFP Evaluation – Brett Hinton

Brett Hinton updated the ELTF on the Middle School Math RFP Evaluation process. The RFP evaluation is ready for the JLBC. The ELTF has requested to be added to the June meeting. No date has been set. ADE cannot award the contract until the JLBC has reviewed it. The JLBC does not want to know who will win the award; they are more concerned with the selection process of the award. Cathy will notify the ELTF when the JLBC holds their June meeting.

Middle School Math School Application – Cathy Poplin

Cathy informed the ELTF that she has currently sent out 78 draft applications for the Middle School Math Pilot Project. Cathy stated there will be webinars to assist applicants with the application process. Cathy received a request for the application from a private school. DJ Harper stated that under the Arizona gift law, a private school may not be able to apply. Cathy asked the Attorney General's Office and once she has a response from the attorney's office she will pass that information onto the ELTF.

Review legislative changes for ELTF – Ted Kraver

Cathy gave each member a copy of HB2064 - Arizona ELTF duties & Legislative changes. Ted went over the changes the Conference Committee made to the duties of the ELTF. Sections in red text are items that were removed from the original bill and sections in blue text are changes and or additions to the bill and will remain in the bill. The ELTF discussed the various changes and updates to their legislative duties.

Ted also informed the ELTF regarding HB2475: Bullying in the Classroom sponsored by Barbara Leff. The bill has an amendment that addresses buying computers. There is a section of the bill that requires the company from which the computer hardware is purchased to pay for the professional development training. The bill also states if a district purchases computer hardware with funding from a Class B bond, with the intent on providing every student with a computer, the school district must convert their current curriculum to an equivalent digital curriculum that is aligned with state standards. A school district may continue to use textbooks and other printed materials if an equivalent digital curriculum is not available. The ELTF discussed the various aspects of this bill.

Setting the Direction of 2008-2009 – Cathy Poplin/ELTF

During the May ELTF meeting, Cathy asked the members to develop a question or two in their area of appointment to the ELTF that would help set the direction of the ELTF for 2008-2009. The ELTF members made the following recommendations:

- Mark Nichols reported the research department at ASU only has data pertaining to ASU, not for the whole state of Arizona.

- Ted Kraver referred to the handout he gave each member, eLrngTFReport. The report lists the recommendation of action for the next six months by the ELTF. The ELTF should provide guidance on transforming Arizona K-12 education to effective e-learning programs.
- Joseph O'Reilly would like for the ELTF to discuss what is needed for e-learning to move forward in this state and then focus our efforts in the targeted areas to identify Arizona's needs and priorities. He went on to talk about the availability of digital content and alignment of content with the state standards so it is easier for teachers to integrate into lessons and use. He suggested that the ELTF needs to set minimal standards and perhaps best practice standards for teacher competencies, equipment types and levels, professional development, and staffing to support technology.
- Hank Stabler (ADE consultant) suggested using NACOL as a reference in the area of what is currently available in e-learning programs across the country. NACOL also addresses the issue of defining the various types of e-learning programs and recommends we use NACOL as a reference when developing our e-learning definitions.
- DJ Harper recommended the ELTF should not try to tackle all of the issues in one year. But instead adopt a broad vision of e-learning which includes all of the areas of interest with recommendations to the Legislature on one area of interest each year. With our focus on one area at a time, our recommendations will have more depth to them. The areas to include will be distance learning, hybrid model, in classroom model, one to one, virtual online. DJ gave the following examples: students in classroom using technology, students sometimes in the classroom classroom using technology and sometimes at home using technology and then students are never in the classroom and only uses technology at home.
- Lisa Long suggested the ELTF define various e-learning terms. Have a common definition of most common e-learning words and phrases. For example define "e-learning," "Hybrid model," "distance learning" etc.

The ELTF discussed how to approach the coming years with the general consensus to tackle one issue at a time and develop a set of definitions for e-learning in Arizona. DJ Harper will work on the first draft of this approach.

Approval of Minutes from May 1, 2008

A quorum was determined. Cathy Poplin asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from May for approval. The ELTF members noted no changes. However, Ted asked that we not use Theodore in the minutes; he prefers to be called Ted. It was so noted. DJ Harper made a motion to accept the minutes and Joseph O'Reilly seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted to the ADE website.

Meeting Dates

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Monday, September 8, 2008

Public Testimony

No guests present

Adjourn

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm