

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

Members Present:

Rod Lenniger (via conference call)

Casey Loman

Mark Nichols

Kim Flack – Representing Debra Lorenzen

Cathy Poplin

Debra Lorenzen

Rosalina Escandon

Members Not Present:

DJ Harper – Representing Chris Cummiskey

Lisa Long

Ted Kraver

Sandi Grandberry

Joseph O'Reilly

Handouts:

- Agenda for July 15, 2008
- June 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Copy of an email sent from Cathy Poplin regarding the eLearning Middle School Math Pilot
- Copy of an email sent to Cathy Poplin from Carnegie Learning regarding a discount offer to schools
- House Bill 2064
- Recommended Course of Action for E-Learning Task Force – DJ Harper
- High-Speed Broadband Access for All Kids: Breaking Through the Barriers June 2008
- Net Day Speak Up 2007 for Students, Teachers, Parents & School Leaders Selected National Findings – April 8, 2008
- United Star Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC) Online Anywhere, Anyplace K-12 Professional Development
- U.S. Department of Education - Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success

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

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

- Rod Lenniger joined the ELTF via conference phone. Rod introduced himself with no updates.
- Kim Flack – Representing Debra Lorenzen via conference phone until Debra can join the meeting around 11:00 am. Kim introduced herself as the Associate Director of ASSET/PBS Eight. Kim informed the ELTF about PBS Teachers Connect. This is a collection of Web 2.0 tools that will be for teachers and educators and will allow them to connect with other teachers from all over the world.
- Ruth Catalano, ADE consultant, introduced herself with no updates.
- Hank Stabler, ADE consultant, introduced himself with no updates.

- Casey Loman introduced herself and informed the ELTF that the Illinois State Board of Education is going through a similar situation with the state budget.
- Nan Williams with the Arizona Department of Education/Director of Educational Technology Unit introduced herself.
- Brett Hinton with the Arizona Department of Education/Educational Technology, Technology Program Specialist/schools state E-Rate coordinator introduced himself.
- Larrisa Krew with Carnegie Learning – guest
- Cathy Poplin informed the ELTF that currently there are not enough members present to have a quorum and that the approval of the June 2, 2008 meeting minutes will take place once there are enough members to have a quorum.
- Mark Nichols arrived at 10:16 am, introduced himself and gave a brief update on the release of iTunesU K-12 as part of IDEAL for teacher resources and professional development. A variety of different organizations and school districts have contributed and the invitation will be extended to all school districts that want to participate and use the resources. All iTunesU K-12 resources will be available through IDEAL. The resources are available in audio, video & PDF formats. At the NECC unveiling of K -12 iTunesU, Arizona had the best K-12 iTunesU site.

Discussion of eLearning Pilot Project – Cathy Poplin

Cathy Poplin shared with the ELTF a copy of the email she sent out regarding the cancellation of the Middle School Math Pilot Project.

(Rosalina Escandon arrived at 10:20 am.)

Cathy also shared with the ELTF an email that was sent to her from Carnegie Learning. Carnegie Learning is prepared to offer an additional 25% discount to any middle school in Arizona that would like to implement the Carnegie Learning Cognitive Tutor program before October 2008. Cathy informed the ELTF that the ELTF can not endorse the offer due to the cancellation of the Middle School Math Pilot Project. However, Cathy stated that Carnegie Learning was one of two top contenders for the final award. Cathy asked the ELTF how they think the task force should address the Carnegie offer. Casey Loman asked if the task force should advertise this offer. And if so, how? She also asked who would answer any questions the schools may have regarding hardware. Cathy stated she will ask Carnegie Learning to speak directly to the schools since the project was cancelled and the additional 25% discount would be based on the price of their bid they put in for the Middle School Math Pilot Project.

Prior to the meeting, Cathy spoke with the ADE Procurement department and they informed her that all the records pertaining to the Middle School Math Pilot Project are now public. Casey suggested that the responsibility of advertising this offer should be placed on Carnegie Learning since the Middle School Math Pilot Project was not awarded. Cathy agreed with Casey and stated she would advise Carnegie Learning they are free to contact the schools. Rod Lenniger cautioned the ELTF not to endorse Carnegie Learning, since the project was cancelled by advertising the offer. Carnegie Learning should contact the school districts directly.

Review of New Legislation & Additional ELTF responsibilities – Cathy Poplin

Cathy Poplin asked the ELTF to discuss and review the five new legislative tasks and additional responsibilities. The ELTF began to discuss and review the new legislation and additional responsibilities, which are:

4. Submit recommendations to the legislature and the state board of education on the following:
 - (a) The transformation of traditional instruction programs to e-learning programs.
 - (b) Options to equip teachers with the most effective technology and training.
 - (c) Revisions to the current system of school funding as it applies to e-learning programs.
 - (d) The coordination of a standardized data system for use by school districts that interfaces with the data warehouse system of the DEPARTMENT of education and that provides decision support data for the school district office, school personnel, parents and pupils.
 - (e) the enhancement and expansion of the integrated data to ENHANCE ARIZONA'S learning web portal system within the department of education to best serve the entire educational system in this state.
5. Collaborate with the government information technology agency and other public and private entities to express the TECHNOLOGY needs of schools in this state.

Rod Lenniger feels the new tasks are large and broad, and lean more toward recommendations as opposed to implementations of specific things. Each task needs to be broken down into more manageable tasks. Rod used section 1-D article 4a as an example, “The transformation of traditional instruction programs to e-learning programs.” Rod’s understanding of this task is that at some point in time there is an assumption that all learning will be transformed into e-learning. Rod assumed that the ELTF would look at situations where e-learning could best serve the students and the state based on certain criteria the ELTF has observed in other states and what the needs are here, and different kinds of programs. This task is confusing, what is the real objective? Is it on parallel paths? Is it either/or? Or is it some level of co-existence with traditional instruction? Rod stated he had similar questions as he reviewed the other new tasks and responsibilities. The new goals for the ELTF are admirable but seem too broad and difficult to define and measure.

Mark Nichols agreed the new tasks are broad and suggested the ELTF make recommendations for “e-learning” definitions. Definitions should include the meaning of traditional instruction, e-learning, etc. which may help address new tasks under section 1-D article 4a. Casey Loman agreed and was not sure how the legislature wants the ELTF to address the new tasks.

Rosalina Escandon agreed with Mark Nichols that that ELTF needs to come up with a common definition for “e-learning” and e-learning related terms. Some might think 1 to 1 is e-learning but 1 to 1 could also be used in a traditional setting. Rosalina also asked how and where does the ELTF get the funding to provide an e-learning type of program for all content and all schools, in light of the budget cut by the legislature. Rosalina’s understanding of the vision for the ELTF was to implement e-learning in all schools. Rosalina stated she was not clear on what the ELTF is being asked to do. Cathy informed Rosalina that in light of the losing the funding for the Math Pilot the ELTF is to make recommendations to the legislature about the areas in the original legislation and to the legislature and the State Board about the areas in the amended legislation. At this point in time, the ELTF has not made recommendations to the legislature other than the selection of the curriculum that would have been used for the Middle School Math Pilot Project.

Cathy referred to the eight bullet points created at Gazel’s eLearning Summit in February mentioned at the last ELTF meeting. New tasks 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d resemble them and seem to be modeled after Ted’s eSATS model. New task 4e makes sense. IDEAL is a large technology project the state is working on. Cathy stated that many of the new tasks are criterion for the things that should be included in a matrix of how we evaluate the larger areas of eLearning.

When the ELTF discusses recommendations perhaps, the best course of action would be to follow what was created by DJ Harper (See DJ's email). During the last meeting, DJ suggested the ELTF try not to tackle all of the issues we have been charged with in one year. But instead adopt a broad vision for e-learning and develop definitions for e-learning with a time frame for making recommendations for each area. Cathy referred to the "Recommended Course of Action for E-Learning Task Force" handout. The ELTF reviewed and discussed the recommended course of action plan handout and how it addresses the new tasks and responsibilities.

The ELTF also discussed the addition of the review of the ELTF by the legislature. Under section 2 article C, the House of Representative Committee on Education (k-12) and the Senate Committee on education (k-12) shall conduct a review of the ELTF. The review has to be delivered to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the ELTF by December 1, 2008. Such recommendations shall include one of the following:

1. That the task force be continued
2. That the task force be revised or consolidated
3. That the task force be terminated

Mark Nichols suggested starting with creating a set of definitions for e-learning terms. Then go back to the six tasks assigned to the ELTF. The ELTF could then demonstrate what our purpose is, why we are important, this is what we have accomplished so far, and this is what we are looking at for the future. Mark asked the following questions: One of the tasks for the ELTF is to examine what is going on in other states, what is our strategy for doing that? Who else is looking at e-learning? Can we partner with NACOL to assist with tackling the tasks listed? The ELTF can make a recommendation to work with or partner with NACOL to address our new tasks.

Casey Loman stated she was confused with article 4b. Is it the task force's responsibility to inform teachers they need to complete, for example, three classes on IDEAL to improve or inform the teacher they need a master's degree? Cathy then stated that if the ELTF uses what DJ Harper recommended as a course of action, the ELTF would look in depth at one task as a time. For example, look at online learning, then the ELTF would look at all of the factors that would transform traditional to e-learning. What do teachers need to be equipped to effectively teach online learning? And how do we address funding for this? Cathy informed the ELTF that in the report sent to the legislature, it was noted that the task force has looked at other states in regards to e-learning but the task force has not made any recommendations.

Hank Stabler suggested using the ADE Education Technology Plan Revision Committee to help with addressing the ELTF tasks. Section 1-D article 4c asked the ELTF to make revisions to the current system of school funding as it applies to e-learning programs. Hank stated this is currently being done by other entities looking at the school formula and maybe making some recommendations on the school formula. Perhaps this could be another partnership opportunity to assist the ELTF with addressing the new tasks.

The ELTF continued to discuss how to address the tasks assigned to them. Hank Stabler stated the ELTF was set up with the ability to manage funds other than state funds. There was the potential to invite, receive or manage funding to accomplish some of these tasks. Hank asked Rod Lenniger if he was familiar with any organizations that could help address this issue. Rod

stated there were local major corporations, foundations both public & private, that if provided the right information could be a source a funding or partnership with the state. The ELTF can put together programs and information to go after the private sector, individuals, corporations and foundations that address education and use that as a way to start some of these e-learning programs.

Cathy suggested each ELTF member take a task related to his or her area of expertise. The ELTF members agreed:

- Lisa Long – Transformation of traditional instruction to e-learning
- Debra Lorenzen – Professional Development
- Mark Nichols – ASU digital resources
- Rosalina Escandon – Options to equip teachers with the most effective technology and training
- Rod Lenniger – Analyze potential methods to implement e-learning programs in this state/Best Practices for e-learning for Arizona. Hank Stabler suggested using NACOL to help with this.
- Cathy Poplin – The enhancement and expansion of IDEAL Arizona’s education web portal system within the Department of Education to best serve the entire educational system in this state.
- Casey Loman – Examine e-learning programs in other states

Hank Stabler suggested creating a matrix of what each state already has, what is important and what areas the ELTF would like to measure and analyze. Cathy informed the ELTF that Mark Nichols created a matrix in February 2008. Cathy will review the matrix and provide feedback at the next ELTF meeting.

Cathy asked the ELTF members to take a look at the publication from the *USDOE: Evaluating Online Learning – Challenges and Strategies for Success*. The Arizona Virtual Academy (one of the charter TAPBI schools) is highlighted as being one the programs that the USDOE felt had a good evaluations and good results. Cathy stated that when the ELTF reports on the e-learning programs throughout Arizona, this will be a vital resource. Cathy suggested adding more information to the ELTF web page. The ELTF can use to the web page to post resources and information about evaluating online learning and a place for the ELTF to make recommendations. Cathy stated she would take on the task of looking into the new web page design for the ELTF. The ELTF agreed.

After reviewing the last ELTF minutes, Cathy stated there needs to be a common definition for e-learning. The current definition the ELTF developed for e-learning is too broad -- “The use of electronic technologies or information communication technologies, ICT in education. E-learning may occur both in distance and or conventional education. It may involve electronic media that does not use online delivery.” Cathy asked Ruth Catalano and Hank Stabler to develop the common definitions to post to the ELTF web page.

Hank Stabler asked if it would be okay to contact the K-12 committee regarding their timeline and procedure for the review due December 1, 2008. Rod suggested being pro-active with the review, show interest. Cathy stated she would contact the House of Representative and Senate K-12 committees.

Create plan of action for ELTF through December 2010 – DJ Harper & Cathy Poplin

Cathy referred to the handout created by DJ Harper. The ELTF reviewed and discussed a course of action. The first step listed is to develop a definition and vision for e-learning by September. Hank Stabler suggested moving that deadline to August to stay on track for the December 1, 2008 review. Cathy asked Ruth Catalano and Hank Stabler to develop the vision of the ELTF. The ELTF agreed. Step two suggests reviewing digital content available and its alignment to state standards. Cathy informed the ELTF that this step aligns well with what IDEAL is doing. IDEAL is aligning a lot of digital content ADE has created or that is being used from Thinkfinity to the Arizona State Standards. There will also be a meeting in Mesa School District next week that will be looking the future of digital content in Arizona. Mark Nichols suggested creating a matrix should be step two which would allow the ELTF to better compare the various e-learning programs and availability of e-learning options across the state and in other states. Once the definitions and matrix are created it may help with addressing the other tasks the ELTF have been assigned.

Hank Stabler suggested the ELTF be a “connector” for all the technology groups and organizations for Arizona. This would allow the ELTF the ability to utilize other resources in regards to technology and e-learning throughout the state. Mark Nichols agreed and added that we invite the different e-learning organizations throughout the state. Mark also suggested the ELTF conduct a survey to find out who is doing what in Arizona. This could help the ELTF find out what is going on in Arizona.

(Debra Lorenzen joins the meeting via conference phone at 11:00 am.)

Kim Flack suggested having a local outside entity conduct a needs assessment/survey to obtain information regarding e-learning throughout the state. Cathy asked Kim if she knew how much an outside entity would charge for this type of service. Cathy asked Debra and Kim if they could investigate the cost and bring their findings to the next ELTF meeting. Debra and Kim agreed. Cathy asked the ELTF if it would be a good idea to invite the different organizations to an event or meeting to discuss the various e-learning opportunities throughout the state. The object of the event would be inform the various entities about the ELTF and for the ELTF to find out what is going on throughout the state in the area of e-learning. The ELTF agreed. Cathy asked the ELTF to email her with a list of organizations that they would like to invite to the September ELTF meeting. The ELTF continued to discuss the organizations they would like to invite.

Approval of June 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Cathy Poplin stated that since the ELTF members participating via conference phone did not receive a copy of the minutes if the ELTF would like to do an approval of the minutes via email. Debra Lorenzen made a motion to have the minutes approved via email. Rod Lenniger seconded, no opposition. Cathy will email the minutes to the ELTF members and the members will vote approval of the minutes via email.

Review of the following publications – Cathy Poplin

High Speed Broadband Access for All Kids: Breaking Through the Barrier

Cathy shared with the ELTF a broadband whitepaper from SETDA. Cathy helped with the creation of it and IDEAL was mentioned in the document. This could be a good resource to schools regarding broadband.

Speak Up 2007 Results

This publication is the national analysis of the Net Day Speak Up 2007 results.

Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success

Arizona Virtual Academy is featured in this article as being one of the top online learning groups in the United States.

USDLC – United Star Distance Learning Consortium

Cathy informed the ELTF that the Star schools are no longer in service, but they have all of their professional development courses are now online.

Next Meeting August 6, 2008

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be August 6, 2008. The September meeting will be September 8, 2008.

Public Testimony

Two guests present: no testimonies given

Larissa Krew – Carnegie Learning

Elise Piatt – Tri-advocates, LLC

Adjourn

Cathy Poplin asked for a motion to be adjourned. Casey Loman made the motion to adjourn, Rosalina Escandon seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.