

Arizona eLearning Taskforce

Minutes of the Meeting Friday, September 14, 2007 10:00am – 12:00pm Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

Members Present:

Rosalina Escandon
Theodore Kraver
Sandi Grandberry – via conference phone
Cathy Poplin, Chair

Members Not Present:

Chris Cummiskey	Joseph O'Reilly
Lisa Long	Rod Lenniger
Casey Loman	
Debra Lorenzen	

Handouts:

- Letter from GITA regarding PIJ recommendation to ITAC
- Draft Application to Participate – eLearning Pilot SB1512 Middle School Math Project
- Building Arizona's 21st Century Schools
- Review of SFB 21st Century Schools Recommendations
- eLearning Taskforce Members and Terms
- eLearning Taskforce Meeting dates for 2007-2008
- BASE LATA & ILEC's with Middle Mile Fiber – Galen Updike, GITA
- ATTAIN Committee and NCLB – Theodore Kraver
- ISTE Webinars – Cathy Poplin

Welcome and Introductions – Remember that the meeting is recorded on tape and available for full review.

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to official order at 10:06am. Not enough members present to have a quorum. Cathy asked the ELTF members present to introduce themselves and give a brief update.

Hank Stabler began the introductions. Hank is a consultant for ADE. Hank shared information on the ISTE webinars being held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 about Online Learning. Cathy will send an email out with the times and registration information.

Rosie Escandon, Cartwright School District, informed the ELTF that Cartwright's technology fair will be scaled down to two days instead of three as done in the past. The fair was originally scheduled for next month, but due to scheduling conflicts, the date has been changed and may be held in March of 2008. Rosie will inform the ELTF with the dates as they become available.

Theodore Kraver is with eLearning Systems for Arizona Teachers and Students (eSATS).

Ted passed out a handout regarding the ATTAIN (Achievement Through Technology and Innovation) bill. This bill has been included as a section (Part F) in the proposed renewal of the NCLB Act.

Cathy Poplin, Chairperson and Deputy Associate Superintendent for Educational Technology with the Arizona Department of Education, gave an update on the draft RFP that will go to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC). The PIJ was approved by GITA. However, there will be a lot of reporting that has to take place monthly.

At 10:19 am Sandi Grandberry joins the ELTF meeting via conference phone.

Theodore asked Cathy if the procurement department reviews the proposals the ELTF will be receiving from vendors. Are the proposals the ELTF receives those that meet our criteria? Or will we have to make more cuts? Cathy will report the answers to these questions at the next meeting.

Cathy asked if any ELTF members had corrections to the draft RFP that was sent to the JLBC. The ELTF discussed the scope of work for any corrections and or changes. The RFP goes to the JLBC on September 20, 2007.

Arizona Broadband Update – Galen Updike, GITA

Galen Updike, the Telecommunication Development Manager with GITA, gave each person a map of Arizona's fiber optic network and focused on the "Middle Mile." Galen advised the ELTF on where Arizona is with broadband connectivity with emphasis to schools having access high speed for multi-media use.

Galen has been working on getting a map to represent Arizona's middle mile fiber. The Middle Mile is the pathway/lines that take the signal from the edge of the community and takes it back to the tier one sites (which are located in Phoenix & Tucson). From a tier one site, it goes to the World Wide Web. It is an intrastate fiber network. The Last Mile connects local citizens to their local network provider; i.e. Cox and or Qwest. Arizona's middle mile is very confusing and outdated. The areas most affected by this are the rural areas.

The average price for a school to obtain high speed connectivity in urban areas is around \$400 a month. The average price for a school in a rural area is considerably more, around \$3,000 a month for the distance charges that are tied in with the standard rate. Distance charges are charged for connecting the school to the tier one line.

Galen's concern is that Arizona may run into violating the Constitution's 14th amendment--equal protection under the law. As we demand more of students and expect them to do homework using the internet and given the current level of disparity of broadband/internet connectivity to the rural areas, we have automatically unjustly treated those individuals.

Galen's would like to create a map of layers for the state which shows the fiber optic lines. GITA will conduct a survey which includes a physical visit to schools to locate their fiber optic lines. GITA would like to have a map with all of the elementary school districts' fiber optic lines marked. On top of that map another map of all the union high school districts' fiber optic lines.

Galen asked that ADE help with the creation of this map. ADE could provide GITA with demographic information. Most of the concern for the survey is in economic development.

Cathy asked Galen if Arizona could possibly create a statewide education network. Due to the Gift Clause in state law, public dollars are prohibited from being used for a private purpose. When the government is taken out of the equation, the cost becomes too much for the citizens and the gap becomes wider. Citizens should only pay for right of way once.

eLearning Taskforce Future Meeting Dates

A handout with the future eLearning Taskforce meeting dates was given to each person present. Cathy asked everyone to mark the meetings on their calendars. In case an emergency meeting has to be called, Cathy will inform everyone.

Date	Time	Location
10/18/07	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
11/8/07	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
12/18/07	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
1/7/08	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
2/8/07	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
3/7/08	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
4/4/08	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417
5/1/08	10-12 pm	ADE – Rm 417

eLearning Taskforce Members Term

Cathy gave a handout with the ELTF members' terms. Whoever was drawn for one year term last year moves to a three year term this year; two year term moves to one year term; and a three year term moves to two year term. Members are appointed for the life of the bill. There are four positions that still need to be filled. Cathy is working with the various government agencies to have these positions filled. Members were encouraged to review the handout.

Results of SFB Survey and Draft Report – Hank Stabler

Hank gave a summary of the SFB survey and draft report results. The focus of the survey is to encourage support for eLearning. Each new building shall have six drops in every classroom and a Local Area Network (LAN) that should be part of a district Wide Area Network (WAN). For grades K-3 a ratio of 1:3 and for grades 4-12 a ratio of 1:1 for personal computing devices. The recommendations will ensure new buildings have the electrical capacity to handle all of the technical needs for students. The new buildings will also have electronic visual displays in each classroom, wireless infrastructure including new cabling standards and physical characteristics to enhance technology use.

Design of District/School Application for Middle School Math Pilot

The ELTF began to look at the application process for the pilot schools. The application is strictly for the selection of the schools that will participate in the pilot project. It has nothing to

do with the selection of the vendor. A draft application was given to each member. The ELTF members discussed what type of questions to ask the schools, the format of the application and how to distribute it. Cathy asked the ELTF if the application should be distributed statewide to both rural and urban areas or should we keep it limited? Galen suggested the ELTF keep in mind that the rural areas may not have broadband access and that it will be impossible (at the current moment) to have statewide participation. Cathy suggested that one of the questions on the application ask for the schools demographics. Other grammatical errors were discussed. Further discussion will continue at the next ELTF meeting.

Public Testimony

Sean Warren with SAS was present. Sean suggested the ELTF have someone with strong experimental design to help with the application process. The school has to be able to relate to the end goals of the eLearning pilot project.

Adjourn

Cathy informed the ELTF that the next meeting will be on October 18, 2007. Rosie informed everyone that she will not be able to attend the next meeting. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.