

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting Wednesday, October 8, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

Members Present:

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

Joe O'Reilly – via conference phone
Rod Lenniger – via conference phone
Cathy Poplin, Chair
Mark Nichols

Members Not Present:

Lisa Long
Casey Loman
Rosy Escandon

Handouts:

- Agenda for October 8, 2008
- September 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Curriki Webpage
- Arizona CIO/CTO Forum
- Copy of response to review letter sent to Sen. Karen Johnson
- IDEAL Task Force Meeting: Idealizing IDEAL, IDEAL features likes & dislikes and Burning Questions
- ELTF Google document/spreadsheet of ELTF members areas of research
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math: SETDA September 2008

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked Hank Stabler to begin by introducing himself and give a brief update.

- Hank Stabler, ADE Consultant. Hank provided information regarding the Arizona CIO/CTO Forum on October 16, 2008. CIO/CTO is part of AzTEA and is made up of technology directors from around the state. The purpose of this conference is for people in the technology field to get together periodically to share ideas on how process and procedures work. The conference will be held at the Civic Center and attendance is free. There will be eight breakout sessions with the focus on moving to a different student information system. One of the major information systems is now abandoning their prime system. The other topic of focus will be security within the IT industry.
- Sandi Grandberry, For the Love of Software, introduced herself with no updates
- DJ Harper, with GITA introduced himself with no updates
- Mark Nichols, with ASU introduced himself with no updates
- Debra Lorenzen with ASSET 8 Public T.V. introduced herself with no updates
- Ted Kraver with eSATS introduced himself, passed out a handout on the Curriki Website. Ted spoke with Scott Neely who discussed the Curriki Website. Curriki is like a

Wiki for curriculum. Curriki collects resources in all areas of education. The site offers collaboration and the ability to post your own resources. Ted also noticed in the eSchool Newsletter an article on new Math games being developed by Microsoft to be released in the New York school systems. A new Math Curriculum coming out of the Department of Education in the Baltimore School system. Ted is on the policy committee for AZ Business Education Council (ABEC) and the AZ Technology Council (ATC) for P-20 Work Force Development Committee. The AZ Technology Council is still focusing on STEM, the council feels it should be an online environment and the need for broadband to achieve this goal and the teachers within STEM. ABEC is going through a major financial reform initiative which they described as six guiding principles. They currently have three developed guidelines; Equity, adequacy, flexibility. Ted suggested to them that they should add Innovation as one of the guiding principles. The council believes that within three months the guiding principles should be complete.

- Cathy Poplin was invited to the Spark 2008 Breakfast yesterday, 10/7/08. The meeting consisted mostly of IT personnel, IT businesses, IT related companies and a few governmental agencies. The topic of conversation was *what will it take to get more American students into the IT field or IT related jobs?* They did a couple of processes to gather comments from the meeting.
 1. A visual map of all the comments made during the meeting, all will be posted online.
 2. All of the thoughts gathered will be put into software called *Think Tank*. This will allow the conversation to continue.

Cathy stated that she will share them with the ELTF when she receives it. The meeting was very interesting, to hear what the perception is from those in the IT field what the reasons are why students are not entering into the IT field are different from those not in the IT field. Cathy passed around a book from the meeting. The breakfast was hosted by a group called CXO, a private organization.

Cathy also met with Ron Schott this week from the Arizona Technology Council. Mr. Schott wanted Cathy's thoughts on E-Rate and discussed what work ATC is doing with regards to E-Rate. Mr. Schott also shared with Cathy the work the ATC Work Force Development Committee is doing. The Work Force Development Committee is reaching out to a large number of companies that have curriculum for K-12. ATC will be creating a portal to house all of the resources they obtain from these companies. The resources will be free and the portal should be up and running in four to five months. Cathy shared with Mr. Schott the IDEAL website, they discussed how ATC's new portal could become a part of IDEAL and how the portal works well with the work the ELTF is doing. Cathy also asked the ATC to supply at least one to two members to sit on the Educational Technology Planning Committee with the Department of Education.

- Cathy brought to the ELTF attention an article in the eSchool Newsletter on NAEP (The National Assessment of Educational Progress) is going to have a technology literacy assessment ready by 2012 for grades 4, 8 & 12. They are working with WestEd to develop this.
- Joe O'Reilly introduced himself. Joe has just been assigned to the State Board of Education – AIMS the Next Generation Task Force. This task force will be looking into 3rd, 4th & 5th grades in regards to AIMS, similar to the way high school students must complete the AIMS test. What do we do next in regards to work place testing and college

readiness is what the task force will be investigating. The task force will meet twice a month for a day each time until June when the task force has to report to the legislature.

- Rod Lenniger, Executive Vice President of iCrossing, introduced himself. Rod researched the possible potential of private funding sources to supplement government funding in the area of eLearning. Rod spoke with Steve Zylstra, President and CEO of the ATC, Rod asked Mr. Zylstra if the ATC could be a conduit into companies to inform and bring awareness to what the ELTF is doing and other educational activities? Mr. Zylstra agreed and stated the ATC has sub-committees and the Work Force Development Committee that are looking into the potentially developed programs and activities within the technology community. The committees and sub-committees have representatives from Avnet, Microsoft and Intel. The committees look at ways to organize the thinking, understanding and the potentially developed programs or activities that will get companies involved to provide actual private funding, in-kind services and look into having a technology company adopt the school closest to them. To have these companies work with the school to get them to understand technology and why certain classes like Math and Science could be very important to their future. Only a few companies have done this so far. Rod suggested the ELTF schedule a meeting with ATC to discuss this further.
- Ruth Catalano, ADE Consultant, introduced herself and provided an update on AzTEA PEAK Conference. The conference is November 10, 2008; Dr. Howie DiBlasi will be the Keynote Speaker. AzTEA will be hiring a part-time Executive Director soon. Cathy will keep the ELTF informed.

Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2008

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from September for approval. Cathy asked if anyone had any corrections that needed to be made. Sandi Grandberry noted a correction on page two, correct the spelling of her name. Cathy agreed. With no other corrections offered, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sandi made a motion to accept the minutes, Ted Kraver seconded the motion, no one opposed. Cathy will have the minutes posted to the ELTF website.

NACOL's Virtual School Symposium 2008 – Hank Stabler October 26-28, 2008 Phoenix, AZ

Cathy Poplin asked Hank Stabler to provide an update on the NACOL's Virtual School Symposium. Hank asked what questions the ELTF would like to ask NACOL regarding what else is going on in the country that would help the ELTF develop its recommendations as stated in the ELTF legislative responsibilities.

- Ted Kraver asked, what are the solutions for accessing online learning? Is one-to-one computing, one child one computer a major barrier?
- Cathy Poplin has a few questions for NACOL:
 - Are state lead cyber high schools becoming the norm?
 - Are the states that have state lead cyber high schools maintaining themselves? If so, what is working and what is not working would be very interesting data to obtain. The best face-to-face teacher is normally asked to be the online teacher.
 - What is in place to help provide the new paradigm of online teaching? Who is doing it the best?
 - And what is the timeline to get a teacher ready to teach online?

- Mark Nichols's questions for NACOL on curriculum content:
 - How do you deal with content? Who is in control of the content?
 - Curriki, where the content arises from the community versus a top down approach where the official body of curriculum is presented.
 - If you are with a statewide program what will be the curriculum versus for online learning or one-to-one learning?
 - How do we distribute resources?
 - Do we share resources? How do we monitor it? Is it good content?
 - Formal learning versus informal learning?
 - When we say one-to-one, what devices are becoming the trends to deliver one-to-one learning?
- Ted Kraver's questions:
 - How are other states handling the funding issue in regards to seat time when a student takes an online course or attend a virtual school?
 - May we have statistics on the modes of online learning?
 - Home schooling versus charter schools and regular districts, what are the different modes of K-12 online learning.
- DJ Harper's question for NACOL:
 - What are the national programs for gifted students?
 - Are there programs in the country that have advanced programs that can help kids take more art, theatre, etc. without losing the ability to take another course they want to take?
- Rod Lenniger's questions:
 - What are the best practices and success stories from other states? What works and what doesn't work from actual eLearning and other related programs?

Discussion of response to review letter sent to Sen. Karen Johnson – Cathy Poplin

Cathy provided each ELTF member a copy of the letter sent to Sen. Karen Johnson. Per the instructions from Sen. Karen Johnson, Cathy sent a copy of the eLearning Task Force Legislative report, additional minutes and the response letter to Dawn Wallace of the Senate Education Committee. Cathy will inform the ELTF when she receives a response from Dawn Wallace.

IDEAL update & Google Apps in IDEAL – Cathy Poplin & Mark Nichols

One of the legislative responsibilities for the ELTF is to advise on how to make IDEAL an eLearning resource for students and teachers in Arizona. Cathy gave each ELTF member an IDEAL brochure that the Department of Education has distributed brochures to every teacher in the state of Arizona. Cathy reviewed the questions, likes, dislikes and concerns from the IDEAL Task Force meeting on August 13, 2008 with the ELTF.

Cathy also gave an update on the first IDEAL Train-the-Trainer on September 30, 2008 at the Black Canyon Conference Center. 150 people registered and participated in the training session. The approach to the training was to model how they could do training at their school or district. Instead of computer labs, each attendee was asked to bring their laptop to use throughout the day. Arrangements were made with the Black Canyon Conference Center to provide wireless connection. The sessions were modeled in such a way that the participants could replicate them. Documents and handouts were provided to the participants using Google Docs and Google Sites. ADE received extremely good feedback on the training session and another training session is

being planned for the spring. The goal is to have trainers within districts so they can support this work.

Mark Nichols gave a history on IDEAL. IDEAL is a partnership with ADE and ASU to deliver curriculum resources for teachers. IDEAL is built in open source software resources. Drupal is the content management systems and Sakai is the learning management system, this allows ADE/ASU to constantly refine and build. It is a secure single sign-on, it authenticates against ADE data, currently certified teachers and certified administration are allowed to logon. When they create a standard account, the system authenticates the data with ADE data. The servers for IDEAL are within the ASU infrastructure, the single sign-on and data are held by ADE. ASU provides the IT developers.

Cathy explained the funding stream for IDEAL. The funding stream has come from ADE and their federal programs. Funds consisted of carryover money, money from Title I school improvement, which had to get approval from the committee of practitioners to allow for funds to be used toward IDEAL. For the past four years IDEAL has been supported by federal funds and Cathy informed the ELTF there is talk of having the districts begin cost sharing for the use of IDEAL next year. The reason for this is to help elevate the stress from the federal projects. This year IDEAL is still free of charge. ADE is also looking into private sponsorship and cost share with the districts for IDEAL.

Using the SmartBoard, Cathy and Mark displayed the IDEAL website. A brief synopsis on the Helpdesk, Curriculum Resources, ASIP, and Discovery Education Streaming, Recipes 4 Success and other various screens and information within IDEAL were provided. Mark informed the ELTF that depending on a user's access level, the user will see different options. Content management can be controlled based on the user's access level. IDEAL is currently working with Thinkfinity on the Learning Resource Manager. The Learning Resource Manager is aligned with the Arizona State Standards.

iTunesU is a public environment by Apple, a few years ago Apple gave Universities the use of their online music store. ASU had an iTunesU presents that they were utilizing to put content into IDEAL. iTunesU K-12 is a content distribution engine. Last year Apple worked with SETDA and identified states that wanted to introduce it at a K-12 level. Arizona was one of eight states that introduced iTunesU K-12. More states are joining, eventually this will be a national repository for K-12 content.

A section of the Curriculum Resources was created for Formative Assessment. This section is aligned with the state standards as well. The formative assessment test engine was built using the assessment module within Sakai. Cathy and Mark demonstrated how the formative assessment section works. Online professional development courses are offered through IDEAL. The course enrollment manager provided the ability to create certificates, select from courses and keep track of courses taken by teachers. There are discussions to offer courses on a demand basis versus a structured format and the possibility of partnering with districts to build custom courses. The SEI courses are free, the Teacher line courses are done in collaboration with ASSET/EIGHT, and these courses are offered at a discount rate.

The collaboration area within IDEAL has interest groups built within Drupal. Anyone within IDEAL can start an interest group. Google Apps was added to the infrastructure and is another

avenue of collaboration. Google Apps includes a Wiki environment – Google Sites. Cathy created a Google Site for the ELTF which includes all of the resources and documents from past ELTF meetings. Cathy gave instructions to the ELTF members on how to sign into the Google Docs for the ELTF. It is <https://sites.google.com/a/ideal.azed.gov/elearning-task-force/>. You sign in using your email address.

Finalize plan of action for the ELTF through December 2010 – Cathy Poplin & all members

Cathy created a Google Doc for the ELTF of the areas of research each task force member was assigned. Cathy displayed and demonstrated the Google Doc version of the spreadsheet to the ELTF. The Google Doc will keep track of all the changes the ELTF makes to the document so the task force members can also keep track of the changes. ELTF members are welcome to create documents to share with the ELTF. Cathy asked the ELTF to continue to work on each member's assigned area of research. It can be found at http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pzd5QkxY95Avh8vpy8Y_Mdw&hl=en.

Cathy shared a video from the IDEAL website with the task force on what students and teachers are doing with technology in the area of eLearning. Cathy shared this video with the participants of the IDEAL Train-the-trainer which started a huge discussion on YouTube.

Review Publications and Articles

Cathy asked each ELTF member to review SETDA's STEM September 2008 report. AZ STEM Center is featured on page five of the report. Also on page 7 under District Level Initiatives, Scales Schools in Tempe is highlighted as a school that uses STEM as a change force. Cathy has put a copy of this publication in the ELTF Google Site.

Next Meeting

The next ELTF meeting will be November 3, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education, conference room 417.

Public Testimony

Elise Piatt with TriAdvocates was present, with no public testimony.

Adjourn

Cathy asked for a motion to dismiss, DJ Harper made a motion to adjourn, Sandi Grandberry seconded. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.