

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting Monday, November 3, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

DJ Harper – Representing Chris Cummiskey  
Kim Flack – Representing Debra Lorenzen  
Sam DiGangi – Representing Mark Nichols  
Ed Kowalczyk – Representing Lisa Long via conference phone, joined at 11:30 a.m.

Joe O'Reilly  
Ted Kraver  
Cathy Poplin, Chair

#### Members Not Present:

Rosy Escandon  
Casey Loman  
Rod Lenniger  
Sandi Grandberry

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for November 3, 2008
- October 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Edweek.org article – *Disruptive Innovation*
- ELTF Funding Assignment
- ELTF Transformation Assignment
- Thank-You email from Christopher E. Hemming for Spark 2008
- NACOL Conference Report
- Net Day Speak Up 2008
- Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning: A Review of State-Level Policy and Practice November 2008

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked Ted Kraver to begin by introducing himself and give a brief update.

- Ted Kraver with eSATS introduced himself and passed out a few handouts. Ted attended the NACOL meeting and passed out a few handouts. Ted will provide more information on his handouts during his time to speak. Sen. Andy Tobin has contacted Ted in regards to begin work on his virtual school project.
- Sam DiGangi, with ASU/IDEAL introduced himself and is representing Mark Nichols
- DJ Harper, with GITA introduced himself with no updates
- Joe O'Reilly, with Mesa Schools introduced himself and reported that Mesa received a passing grade in AIMS for their Distance Education Program. Rich Crandall, Chair of the Education Committee for the House of Representatives has been sending out pamphlets regarding various topics and one of the topics he is showing interest in is Distance Education. Joe passed around the pamphlet on Distance Education to share with the ELTF.

- Kim Flack with ASSET Eight introduced herself and is representing Debra Lorenzen
- Ruth Catalano, ADE Consultant, introduced herself with no updates
- Cathy Poplin, Chair of the ELTF, introduced herself and provided an update on the Spark 2008 Breakfast. During the last ELTF meeting Cathy gave an update on the event, Cathy gave each ELTF member a copy of an email from Christopher Hemming. The email contained a *Think Tank* link to the notes from the breakfast. To continue the discussion, participants are asked to submit ideas, solutions and/or recommendations via the *Think Tank* link within the email. The *Think Tank*/session remained opened until October 31, 2008.
- Cathy also informed the ELTF the Speak Up 2008 survey is now open. Cathy gave each member a handout on the Speak Up 2008 champion. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year this national survey has been done. Last year 2% of Arizona students were asked to respond to the survey. Cathy receives aggregate state level data from this survey if more than 1% of students respond. The survey is being promoted to all schools. Cathy asked the ELTF that if any members have a connection with a school to encourage them to complete the survey. The data gathered from the survey will assist with the development of the new state Technology Plan. Last year's Speak Up results are available on our Google Site for review. Cathy will email information regarding this survey to the ELTF.
- Cathy asked the guests present to introduce themselves
  - Beth Sauer with the Arizona School Board Association
  - Rick Baker with ASU/IDEAL
  - Brett Hinton with ADE/Educational Technology
  - Nan Williams with ADE/Educational Technology
  - Galen Updike with GITA
  - Coy Ison, Executive Director of AzTEA

### **Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2008**

Cathy informed the ELTF that since they do not have a quorum, the October Meeting Minutes will be approved at the next ELTF meeting.

### **NACOL's Virtual School Symposium 2008 Report – Ruth Catalano, Brett Hinton, Nan Williams & Ted Kraver**

Cathy asked for those ELTF members that attended the NACOL virtual School Symposium to provide an update.

- Ruth brought extra materials from the event for those who would like them. A portion of all topics discussed at the Symposium are posted to our Wiki site. Nan also set up a Google Doc for everyone to summarize his or her experience.
  - Susan Patrick gave an overview of the state of Online Learning and its importance.
  - Ruth attended a session on Ethics & Copyright Compliance.
  - South Carolina presented on their first year (which began in August) with three new virtual high schools. The South Carolina Department of Education runs the supplemental Online Courses, anyone in the state can sign up for these courses for credit recovery, etc. The virtual high schools are totally funded by the Legislature. They must ask the Legislature for continued funding in March or April. Proof must be provided to the Legislature of their successes. They were only given one year, they received funds in July and by August the schools were up and running.

- Ruth attended another session on *K-12 Evaluations: Lessons Learned*. This was a shortened version of a 3-4 hour pre-conference that was held on Sunday.
- Cathy Poplin copied the Executive Summary of *Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning: A Review of State-Level Policy and Practice* and provided a copy to each ELTF member.
- Ted Kraver gave each ELTF member a report on the NACOL sessions he attended. Ted attended sessions all day on Tuesday. Ted's principle discussions were with Michael Horn the morning Keynote speaker from Harvard Business School on *Disruptive Innovation*, Susan Patrick, President of NACOL on national issues in general, and the experts at the expo booths.
- Nan Williams and Hank Stabler spoke with the group from Georgia. Georgia explained how their system works. They have a state model with credit recovery as the focus. Schools choose to use and the schools pay out of their ADM.
  - Nan and Hank asked Susan Patrick what is the norm, state lead vs. district lead? Susan stated there really isn't a norm. It depends on how they are created and how they are funded to determine which model they go with.
  - Nan attended sessions on professional development, Wisconsin has a good model. Wisconsin not only targets teachers, but students as well. Students cannot enroll in a class unless they take a mini-course. Once the student has completed the mini-course, they may enroll in the regular class. They provide professional development for beginning teachers and just-in-time training for teachers. They have built within their courses a zero week, which informs the teachers of all the prep work they need to do before their class begins. Wisconsin also has an administrative focus. They work with administration on how to supervise and evaluate online teachers and managing online programs.
  - The Keynote speaker for Monday, Fabrizio Cardinali, CEO of Giunti Labs, is working on a project where they take the learning management system and the publisher content to work on mobile and/or smaller devices.
  - China has completely digitalized their entire curriculum
  - Singapore has 100% of their schools online and 100% of all teachers teach online. And all teachers are being taught to teach in Second Life.
- Brett Hinton attended a session on *5 Things to do with your Legislatures in relation to eLearning*. Most Legislatures in the states, especially where there is a term limit, do not have long term experience. It is recommended to work with staffers to establish relationships that will endure over time. Have elevator speeches about your main eLearning topics. Provide data to help convey the message you are trying to make.
  - Brett also attended a session on funding. One of the biggest challenges for eLearning is how is the funding model? Most of the successful implementations, regardless of how that model looks involve state line item funding. Generally, there is a combination of statewide funded model with others that may be picking it up also and are able to get ADM. If a student is taking one out of their six hours a day to attend an online course, how do you break down that ADM? How does the ADM model need to be adjusted? Most states are still determining how to tackle this issue.

The ELTF discussed various ways some states across the country address the topic of state lead vs. district lead virtual schools. Cathy asked Joe how does he see Mesa TAPBI school vs. a state lead virtual school. Joe stated they provide their Distance Education services to other districts for

a fee. The participating districts collect the ADM and divide it up from there to pay for the Distance Education services. Going to a state lead initiative would impact this offering. This would also impact some of the for-profit TAPBI schools in Arizona. Joe suggested a hybrid model that uses a combination of district and state lead initiative/program. Ted stated maybe a state lead access to Broadband so all district could use instead of the state controlling the program.

Cathy stated this could be one of the recommendations the ELTF can make to the Legislature, state lead virtual schools vs. district lead virtual schools or some form of a virtual school program and/or initiative.

Cathy introduced Coy Ison, who joined the meeting after it began. Mr. Ison is the new part-time Executive Director of AzTEA, The Arizona Technology in Education Alliance. AzTEA is a statewide non-profit organization for educators to learn how to effectively use technology in the classroom; the organization has been established for ten years.

### **Report by ELTF Workgroups – All Members**

Cathy clarified the ELTF's workgroups and what each member is to report on. Cathy displayed the ELTF Google Doc of member's assignments. Cathy demonstrated how to use the Google Doc to post assignments and findings. The ELTF has to produce a Legislative Report in December. The ELTF discussed the areas of interest, and what information the Legislative Report should contain.

DJ Harper asked if the ADE attorneys have approved the use of the Google Site for the ELTF. Does the Google Site follow the Open Meeting Laws? Cathy will verify with Kim Anderson, ADE attorney and inform the ELTF of her answers. Cathy asked the ELTF members not to fill out the matrix within the Google Site but to continue to do their areas of research.

DJ advised the ELTF the in-depth report the task force would like to turn in cannot be compiled in such a short time. DJ suggested the ELTF provide a report stating what the task force has been working on and what the task force is planning to do. Send a report outlining the ELTF's plan to accomplish the goals stated in the Legislature with subsequent reports on the various eLearning topics discussed earlier.

Cathy informed the ELTF this discussion will continue at the next ELTF meeting and she will inform the ELTF what Kim Anderson says regarding the use of the Google Site. Cathy will send out a copy of just the matrix for the ELTF members to complete their assigned topics and asked the members to bring their matrixes to the next ELTF meeting.

### **Demonstration of Curriki (<http://www.curriki.org/>) – Meredith Phillips, Curriki**

Peter Levy, Joshua Marks CTO, Meredith Phillips Executive Editor, and Kimberly Patterson the Managing Editor, joined the ELTF meeting via conference phone. The ELTF members introduced themselves for the Curriki group on the conference phone.

Peter Levy began by showing a PowerPoint Presentation on Curriki. Curriki is an online environment created to support the development and free distribution of world-class educational materials to anyone who needs them. Curriki has several full courses from NROC (National Repository for Online Curriculum). Educators may share their favorite curriculum resources and

upload lessons they created. Other publishers also post materials to the website as well, such as MIT Open Courseware, Atomic Learning, Destiny Workshop, etc. Curriki refers to this content as partner shared content.

To address the issue of quality control Curriki has a file check. This ensures the materials posted are appropriate and have an educational value. At the next level of quality control, Curriki has subject matter experts review materials as well. Member comments on materials within Curriki are welcomed.

Curriki has open source licensing, everything on the site is free to use, all posted curriculum must be owned by the person posting/sharing the curriculum. Curriki is currently working on a “Federated Curriki”. This would allow you to have at the state level your own version of the Curriki Site. Curriki will work with you to customize and create this site.

Meredith Phillips gave an overview of the Curriki Website. Meredith provided samples and demonstrated the three main functions (Find, Contribute and Connect) of the Curriki site. “Find” allows a user to collect lesson plans, teaching activities, student worksheets and more. “Contribute” allows the user to share their favorite curriculum resources. “Connect” allows for collaborating with teachers in their school, or educators around the world.

Curriki materials are also reviewed by the Curriki Review System. The ratings range from 1 to 3 with 3 being exemplary. The ratings are currently done by the Curriki Review Team, a panel of experts. Later this year Curriki will allow target ratings done by the users.

Cathy asked the Curriki group if they could meet with the ELTF again, either in person or via conference call when the ELTF has more time. Peter Levy agreed and asked Cathy to contact either him or Joshua.

### **Next Meeting**

The next ELTF meeting will be December 15, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education, conference room 417.

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony given

### **Adjourn**

Cathy asked for a motion to dismiss, made a motion to adjourn, seconded. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.