

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting Friday, November 13, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

Coy Ison  
Rosy Escandon  
Ted Kraver  
Doug Barnard – Representing Joe O’Reilly  
Mark Nichols  
Cathy Poplin, Chair

#### Members Not Present:

Kim Flack  
Sandi Grandberry  
Matt Morales

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for November 13, 2009
- U.S. Department of Education Announces Karen Cator as New Director for Office of Educational Technology at SETDA’s
- PUBLIC NOTICE: Comment Sought on Broadband Needs in Education, Including Changes to E-Rate Program to Improve Broadband Deployment
- National Educational Technology Plan Focus Areas
- SETDA State examples to support four ARRA Assurances
- Arizona K-12 Online Learning Study Group Report
- New AOI (formally known as TAPBI) Law

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and began with the introductions.

- Mark Nichols, ASU/alt^I/IDEAL, introduced himself with no updates
- Hank Stabler, ADE Consultant, introduced himself with no updates
- Coy Ison, Executive Director for AzTEA, introduced himself and stated it is his one year anniversary as the Executive Director for AzTEA. Coy also informed the ELTF the MEGA Conference is November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wigwam Resort. AzTEA is co-sponsoring the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) - Title I Unit. AzTEA will demo a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom at the MEGA Conference, the classroom will have Netbooks and hand held devices and how to integrate into the classroom.
- Ted Kraver, with eSATS, introduced himself and informed the ELTF for the last couple of months he has been reporting on the various meeting he has been attending such as ABAC, P-20 Council task teams, IBM Smart City, Race To The Top (RTTT) project and the Innovation Conference. Ted has noticed eLearning is the main topic at these various meetings. Ted suggested the ELTF move from advocating eLearning to providing

guidance and recommendations for implementing eLearning in Arizona. Ted gave each member a handout showing various organizations in Arizona and related eLearning topics of interest.

- Rosy Escandon, with Cartwright School District, announced Cartwright has opened a position for Director of Educational/Instructional Technology. The position was closed Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and is hoping to have the position filled by January. Rosy will work with five schools within the Cartwright School District to focus on technology staff and staff development for teachers and principals of those five schools.
- Doug Barnard, with Mesa Public Schools is representing Joe O'Reilly, introduced himself with no updates.
- Cathy Poplin, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Educational Technology with ADE, introduced herself and informed the task force she just returned from Washington, D.C. where she attended the SETDA Leadership Conference and Educational Technology Forum. Cathy summarized the SETDA conference and what other states are doing in the area of technology. The 2008 teacher of the year, Sara Baird from Ahwatukee spoke on behalf of a teacher panel on how technology has changed the teaching environment. During the conference, Cathy presented and shared the new relationship between Educational Technology and Title I in Arizona. The new technology plan for Arizona is now blended with the Title I consolidated plan. Districts will no longer write a standalone technology plan; technology is a strategy for most of the goals and tech literacy has been added as a goal. For example, as the districts look at how to increase their math scores, they must explain how they will incorporate technology to help support and achieve this goal. The new technology plan is completely online.

### **Federal Ed Tech Updates and Possible Response**

#### **A. New Director for Office of Educational Technology**

Cathy informed the ELTF during the SETDA's Education Forum Karen Cator was introduced as the new National Director of Education Technology.

#### **B. Comment period for US Broadband needs in education – Brett Hinton**

Brett informed the ELTF the public notice, as part of the Federal Communications Commission's development of a national broadband plan, is seeking comment on various issues related to broadband access in education. The Commission is also seeking comment on modifications to the E-Rate program. Brett asked the ELTF to use the docket numbers listed on the public notice when submitting electronic comments and demonstrated how to make and submit comments.

Cathy asked if the ELTF would like to submit comments as a group or individually, Cathy will be submitting comments on behalf of the Arizona Department of Education. Hank suggested the ELTF make a statement as a group and Cathy asked Hank to take the lead. The ELTF agreed and will invite other technology related groups/organizations to make comments; all comments must be submitted by December 11, 2009.

### **C. National Educational Technology Plan – Cathy Poplin**

Cathy shared the National Educational Technology Plan website with the ELTF. Comments regarding the National Educational Technology Plan will be posted as a group and Cathy asked Hank to begin work on the comments. Cathy stated this is a great opportunity to influence Educational Technology at the government level.

### **D. State examples to support four ARRA Assurances – Cathy Poplin**

SETDA is trying to produce a whitepaper on the four ARRA assurances. SETDA is looking for good state level examples. Cathy suggested the new AOI laws and the new item bank for Arizona. Cathy asked the ELTF if they had more information to add. Ted suggested the data system being discussed within the P-20 Council. Cathy informed the ELTF they are welcome to make/post comments.

### **Arizona K-12 Online Learning Study Group Report – Brett Hinton**

Cathy asked Brett Hinton to give an update on the Arizona K-12 Online Learning Study Group which met on October 27, 2009. The study group was formed based on Supt. Horne's vision for an agency catalog of online courses a student can take. Brett referred to the handout given to the ELTF members and summarized the study groups' discussions and topics of interest.

Ted asked if this catalog shows everything available on the web or more specific. Brett replied, the catalog does not set standards, the focus of the catalog is to give instruction on how a student/parent can enroll, what courses are available, who provides the online courses and the cost associated with taking the course. Cathy will keep the ELTF informed as the catalog is developed.

### **Support of ASBE/ASBC in development of standards for online course providers and online schools – Entire ELTF**

Cathy asked the ELTF how the task force can support the State Board of Education & State Board of Charter schools with the development of the standards for online schools as well as online course providers. Cathy would like to present to the State Boards ELTF recommendations.

Mark suggested the ELTF pull pieces together with regards to NACOL, what the charter "TAPBI" schools have done, discern the best practices and provide recommendations. Coy agreed with the use NACOL documents and what other states have done. Doug stated, "NACOL has done a great job of gathering nationwide data, the charter schools used NACOL, but also recommended not only having standards but there needs to be a way to evaluate the standards." Doug added the ELTF needs to make a recommendation to help guide laws. Cathy will gather the resources and Mark will organize the resources. The group continued to discuss the AOI laws, Cathy will verify the timeline and inform the ASBE/ASBC with comments and offer the services of the ELTF to the State Boards.

### **Update on IDEAL 3.0 and LRM – Mark Nichols**

Mark Nichols reported that ASU just upgraded the infrastructure for EduAccess within IDEAL and is currently reviewing how to populate data for the LRM (Learning Resource Manager). IDEAL may have a STEM PD initiative discussions are still in progress and will keep the ELTF informed.

### **Update on IDEAL's AP Pilot Project – Eric Francis**

Cathy informed the ELTF Eric was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, this update will be on next month's agenda.

### **Update on Arizona's RTTT Proposal**

Cathy reported on the RTTT proposal and the following strategies to fulfill the four areas of reform.

- STEM Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- Rural Strategy
- Focus on Transitions
- Online Strategy

### **Next Meeting: January 20, 2010**

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be January 20, 2010.

### **Public Testimony**

Dana Eriksson with Education 2020 attended the Arizona K-12 Online Learning study group and noticed a lot of schools where in attendance and to please keep in mind virtual high schools. There are good quality programs out there that provide online curriculum for schools; this is an opportunity for traditional schools to keep their students enrolled in their school. Perhaps the catalog could include as an audience not just student and parents but think of other schools as well.

Jeff Sawner with Education Options High School provides online content and they have a school based on the eLearning hybrid model. The catalog should include what other resources are available as well as address the funding aspect of online learning. The catalog should also include the standards to show how the course aligns to state standards, state how finals are proctored and the time length of said course.

Jeff asked if the task force meetings for the AOI standards be an open meeting, Cathy replied that decision will be left to the State Board, any ELTF meetings will be public.

### **Adjourn**

Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. Coy made a motion to adjourn; Mark seconded no opposition. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.