

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

Members Present:

DJ Harper – Representing Chris Cummiskey

Doug Barnard – Representing Joe O'Reilly

Rosy Escandon

Ted Kraver

Angel Jannasch-Pennell – Representing Mark Nichols

Rod Lenniger – via conference phone

Casey Loman – via conference phone

Kimberly Flack – via conference phone

Cathy Poplin, Chair

Members Not Present:

Lisa Long

Sandi Grandberry

Handouts:

- Agenda for December 15, 2008
- October 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- November 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Letter from the Legislature stating Kimberly Flack's appointment to the ELTF
- MarketWatch article regarding *SAS Makes Bold Statement for Education: SAS® Curriculum Pathways® Now Free to All Educators, and Their Students, in America*
- End of Year Report on Funding
- Transformation of Instruction
- Arizona Educational Technology Plan Handout
- SETDA November 2008 Learning Virtually: Expanding Opportunities
- Demo of online game Dimenxian Algebra

Welcome and Introduction – *The meeting is recorded on tape and is 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 attended the Arizona School Board Association Legislative conference on December 10th. The conference covered a lot of "hot topics" in the area of education. Hank also attended the Gazel Summit at Williams Air Force Base in the simulator lab.
- Ruth Catalano, ADE Consultant, no update
- Angel Jannasch-Pennell, with ASU/Alt^I introduced herself and is representing Mark Nichols
- DJ Harper, with GITA introduced himself, and had nothing new to report regarding E-Rate due to the Governor's transition.
- Doug Barnard, Executive Director for the Mesa Distance Learning Program introduced himself and is representing Joe O'Reilly
- Rosy Escandon, with Cartwright School District introduced herself and stated Cartwright will be having a "Day of Discovery" next month. The event will be hosted by Discovery Education due to their involvement within IDEAL.

- Ted Kraver with eSATS introduced himself and gave an update on the Gazel Summit at Gateway (formally known as Williams) Air Force Base. ASU East and the Federal Government and the Air Force Base are designing a new institute for ASU lease with the focus of the facility on eLearning.
- Rod Lenniger Executive Vice President of iCrossing introduced himself and informed the ELTF that he and Ted Kraver met and discussed the topic of funding with regards to eLearning.
- Casey Loman with Resolutions introduced herself with no updates
- Kimberly Flack with ASSEST Eight introduced herself with no updates.
- Cathy Poplin introduced herself and informed the ELTF on the following:
 - Kim has been newly appointed to the ELTF. Kim will be taking Debra Lorenzen's position on the task force and will be representing online professional development.
 - Received an email from John Kelley with TriAdvocates on *SAS Makes Bold Statement for Education: SAS® Curriculum Pathways® Now Free to All Educators, and Their Students, in America* Now that this resource is free Cathy will look into possibly using this tool within IDEAL
 - In the Sunday edition of The Arizona Republic, Cathy shared with the ELTF an article on *Technology is driving innovation, high profits*. The article discussed how technology is boosting productivity and high profits in local Arizona companies. She expressed the desire to have technology to the same thing for education.
- Cathy asked the guests present to introduce themselves
 - Bob Rosenburg – eSATS & Gazel
 - Ntiedo Etuk – Tabula Digita
 - Elise Piatt – TriAdvocates
 - Rick Baker – ASU/IDEAL & AzTEA President-Elect
 - Coy Ison – Executive Director of AzTEA
 - Nan Williams – Arizona Department of Education, Director of Educational Technology

Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2008 & November 3, 2008

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from October and November for approval. Cathy asked if anyone had any corrections. DJ Harper noted we need to update the agendas, remove Debra Lorenzen's name and replace it with Kimberly Flack's name. Cathy agreed. With no other corrections offered, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ted made a motion to accept the October minutes, DJ seconded the motion, no one opposed. Ted made the motion to accept the November minutes, Rosy seconded, no one opposed. Cathy will have the minutes posted to the ELTF website.

Report by ELTF workgroups – All Members

Cathy asked the ELTF groups to present on the areas of eLearning assigned to them

- Ted Kraver is working with Rod Lenniger & Sandi Grandberry.
 - Ted and Rod covered the area of Funding. Ted gave each ELTF member a handout Ted and Rod created. The handout is a working draft and is open for discussion. Rod is still looking into funding from the private sector/companies in the technology field. The draft also discussed possible legislative changes to address funding.
 - Ted and Sandi address the topic transformation of traditional instruction programs to eLearning programs. The handout Ted and Sandi created addresses "What can be done to promote Online Learning, Hybrid Learning, Classroom 1:1 and Virtual Online Learning?" The handout also covered the book *Disrupting Class, How Disruptive Innovation will Change the Way the World Learns*, by Clayton M. Christensen, Michael Horn and Curtis

Johnson, 2008, McGraw Hill. The book describes three areas where disruptive innovation is taking place within eLearning.

- Cathy Poplin and Mark Nichols meet regularly to discuss IDEAL
- Joe O'Reilly and Hank Stabler met via email on the issue of Data
- Cathy informed the ELTF that Vincent Yanez will be providing a copy of the new 2008 TAPBI School report. Doug Bernard informed the ELTF that 70% of students in the Mesa District have taken an online course by the time they graduate.

Review and comment on the Arizona Educational Technology Plan Draft – Brett Hinton

Cathy informed the ELTF that it is a requirement to have a state educational technology plan. The current technology plan was created in 2002. Cathy asked Brett Hinton with the Arizona Department of Education, Educational Technology to provide a review of the Technology Plan Draft.

Brett gave a brief presentation on the new Arizona Technology Plan Draft. Brett reviewed the areas of the technology plan.

- Vision
 - Robust school environments to provide anytime/anywhere access
 - Using developmentally appropriate current and emerging technologies
 - Authentic learning experiences that are personalized
- E-Learning Recommendations
 - Revise school funding model to accommodate online education
 - Expand online learning options past TAPBI program
 - All HS students required to take one online class to graduate by 2013
 - Continue to expand offerings through state's IDEAL platform
 - Pursue connectivity infrastructure improvements
 - Create dedicated technology funding component
- Process & People
 - April 2008 – Spring 2009
 - Statewide Steering Committee
 - Business, Higher Ed, K-12, ADE
 - Major state regions are covered
- Components
 - Student Learning
 - Leadership
 - Preparation & Development for Educators
 - Infrastructure
- Feedback
 - <http://tinyurl.com/08az-techplan-feedback> Brett asked the ELTF members to review the Technology Plan Draft and provide feedback via the URL provided. Brett also created a URL to view a copy of the plan <http://tinyurl.com/azedtechplan08>.

Demo of online game Dimenxian Algebra – Ntiedo Etuk, Tabula Digita

Cathy introduced Ntiedo Etuk, founder and CEO of Tabula Digita. Tabula Digita has created an online Algebra game. The game has multi-user environments and is currently being used in multiple states/school districts across the country. Cathy asked Ntiedo to present his online math game to the ELTF. Ntiedo gave each ELTF member a sample of the game.

Ntiedo Etuk gave a presentation of his online Algebra game. The product was completed in April 2007. Tabula Digita has math curriculum in elementary, middle school and high school. Three weeks ago, Tabula Digita made a deal with Pearson to include inside their textbooks, a promotion asking them to play the curriculum in the game provided, in Pearson's virtual world. If the schools or students want to upgrade they can. Tabula Digita has also just completed a multi-million dollar partnership with ISTE and Monsanto to create Elementary Science games due to come out in the middle of next year.

Since April 2007, Tabula Digita is now being used in 400 schools, with over 100,000 students in the network. A study was done by the University of Central Florida that showed Tabula Digita doubled the gains in student scores on Orange County District benchmark exams versus teacher only instruction. This is accomplished by basing the experience in a tournament setting, the idea of competition and collaboration. Ntiedo demonstrated the game in tournament mode.

New York City, Chicago, Orange County, Brower County, etc, have Dimensional Algebra citywide. In the last 16-18 months, 13 of the top 100 districts are using the product with 2.6 million students and over 100,000 in the system. Orange County, FL has over 54 different math intervention products; they ask their educators to evaluate the product and received the highest rating of an "A" with 4 out of 5 stars. Tabula Digita has received the Macworld Editor's Choice Award, Google Earth and YouTube's "Best new educator of the year award". Ntiedo demonstrated how Dimensional Algebra works in a single player mode.

Coming in January 2009, students will be able to get reports they can print out and/or send to their teachers. The educators get an educator platform or web portal that gives them all the information, when the students play, what they get right and wrong for strength and weakness assessments.

The ELTF and guests asked questions:

- Ted Kraver – How many students at home have a fast enough computer to play this game at home?
 - Ntiedo – If you have a computer 6 years old or younger, you will be fine, the game is Mac &/or PC compatible.
- Doug Bernard – How much does this cost? What other subjects do you offer?
 - Ntiedo – It is based on a per year, per subject area basis. Generally, it costs between \$10-\$20 per student, per year. If you do something much larger, like a citywide implementation, the cost is lower than that.
 - Science will be offered by the middle of 2009 and we are also looking to add literacy and reading as well.
- Hank Stabler – Are your subjects grade level appropriate? What type of professional development do you offer for teachers?
 - Ntiedo - Yes, we offer grade level appropriate curriculum.
 - Teachers are brought in for a half day or a full day session, we do not expect the teachers to know how to play the games. We ensure them their students will teach them how to play the games. Teachers are asked to play the games so they are familiar with the games and to convince them the games does have educational content within them. And we show them how to use the web portal to download student data and how to view the results.
- Coy Ison – Does the school or district have to set up the servers or do they point to your servers? Does the game end? Can a student complete all levels of the game?

- Ntiedo – They point to our servers. It has to be allowed it to be installed onto the client, and then it is downloaded onto all the clients and all the data goes to our servers.
- Single player games, a lot of students complete those games. On the multi-player games, the game has the ability to evolve its degree of difficulty.
- Shelly Pollnow – Are you aligned to the NCTM standards for each grade level? Are you tailoring it for any of the states you are working with?
 - Yes, we are aligned to the NCTM standards for each grade level and the product is tailored for every state we offer it too.
- Brett Hinton – What type of information will the teacher’s receive from the student reports generated by the system?
 - Ntiedo – Currently we have the ability to see what the student got right or wrong by topic. We are continuing to build out and as we get more information as to what is needed, we will add those as well.
- Cathy Poplin – When the teacher receives this report about how their student is doing, what happens?
 - Ntiedo - The teacher may recommend tutoring, provide one-to-one support, or state to the student they need more time on this area, it really depends on the engagement level of the teacher. The decision really is left up to the teacher.

Review SETDA’s Learning Virtually: Expanding Opportunities – Cathy Poplin

Cathy shared with the ELTF the November 2008 SETDA report, *Learning Virtually: Expanding Opportunities*. Cathy briefly discussed the section on “Challenges and Key Recommendations”. This section describes some of the current challenges with virtual learning and some key recommendations for addressing these challenges.

- Funding
- Teacher Licensure
- Online Instructional Methods
- Infrastructure
- Quality Control and Oversight

Next Meeting: January 5, 2009

The next ELTF meeting will be January 5, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education, conference room 417.

Public Testimony

Bob Rosenberg stated the Obama Transitional Team is looking into a Broadband Infrastructure Initiative, where funds would be distributed on a state by state basis. States that don’t use the money will lose the money. Bob suggested Arizona have a plan ready for if &/or when this initiative becomes reality. Cathy informed everyone that ADE worked with GITA last week and provided the Transitional Team with figures for Arizona.

Adjourn

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.