

**Arizona eLearning Taskforce
Minutes of the Meeting
Friday, December 18, 2007
10:00am – 12:00pm
Arizona Department of Education
Conference Room 417**

Members Present:

Rosalina Escandon	Debra Lorenzen
Sandi Grandberry	Mark Nichols
DJ Harper - Representing Chris Cummiskey	Joseph O'Reilly
Theodore Kraver	Cathy Poplin, Chair
Lisa Long	

Members Not Present:

Casey Loman
Rod Lenniger

Handouts:

- Agenda for December 18, 2007
- October 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes
- Solicitation Response for RFP ED08-0020

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to official order at 10:00am. Cathy was pleased that there was almost at 100% attendance today; with the exception of Casey Loman, who is out on medical leave. She stated that Rod Lenniger had some business to attend to; however, he will join the group at approximately 10:30am via the telephone.

Cathy asked the group if anyone remembered what happened nearly a year ago. The answer was: The eLearning Taskforce had their first meeting. She stated the group will make their introductions, introduce any guests, and to give an update of anything you are currently working on or something good for the entire group. Cathy introduced Teresa Wolfe who is her administrative assistant. Teresa will be taking the minutes today because Krystal is out sick.

The group introduced themselves. The following people made specific comments:

Debra Lorenzen shared that PBS has developed a new online tool for educators for districts called Peer Connection; and it's an online coaching tool. It supports any model of coaching and they're excited to share it with districts around the state. It allows a district to add their own content to it. It doesn't teach coaching. It just supports whatever model is out there.

Lisa Long stated the most exciting thing that has happened to them lately was turning a negative into a positive. She stated that her district recently had their corrective action visit from the Department of Education. As they talked about the deployment of curriculum and the articulation of the state standards she talked about how they have merged the technology budgets with the curriculum textbook budget so that it is one of the same. She elaborated further how it was seamless to teachers as the end user in terms of the professional development. The Arizona Department of Education seemed pleased.

Joe O'Reilly stated what's new is this year they are putting in a new formative assessment, district assessment and data warehouse systems. He's doing the training and bringing all people involved together and it's taking

more time than he than he thought. He still has a full agenda, things he still has to fix, and get ready for the next implementation.

Ted Kraver introduced himself and elaborated on what he has been involved in. Ted is part of eSats which is a non-profit organization for advocacy of eLearning and K-12 education; which spun out of the organization Gazel. He passed out a flyer where Gazel is going to hold a summit. He stated this is the first major summit they have done in a number of years. He continued to describe and elaborate the reasons for this high level summit. They are trying to bring in legislators, business communities as well as all the major communities in Arizona. He invited all to attend and be a part of this summit. Secondly, the legislation that eSats is trying to put together with Mark Anderson ran into a problem. The legislation has been re-written and basically it is asking this eLearning Taskforce to address about 8 different critical issues that have been discussed here several times. Legislature will wait to see what we come up with a more structured policy basis. It is not in legislation yet but it's going forward. Final item he mentioned was his visit to a military and simulation training.

Rosalina Escandon mentioned her annual technology conference has been approved. Conference will be held on March 7th through March 8th. She was very excited with the person she confirmed for the conference and the work he does in the field of multimedia.

Mark Nichols mentioned the opportunity to present at the Mega Conference on IDEAL, and give a preview of the new interface that will be rolled out in January. He will be happy to get some feedback and looking forward to hearing from the people that utilize this site.

Cathy Poplin's update was on IDEAL. She explained aspects of version 2.0 and anticipates it should be up and running after January 15th. Cathy introduced one of her newest staff members, Brett Hinton. Cathy introduced the guests that will be part of the agenda today: Richard Adickes, Representative Andy Tobin, Donald Houde, and Herb Dwyer; and 3 guests Richard Brincefield, Larissa Krew and Bob Rosenberg.

Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2007

Cathy asked the ELTF members to review the meeting minutes from October 18, 2007. ELTF members noted no changes. Ted Kraver made a motion to accept the minutes, Rosalina Escandon seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted.

Middle School Math RFP Update and RRP Evaluation

Richard Adickes spoke and highlighted the following:

- Solicitation response was 17 responses with a breakdown of 12 proposals and 5 no bids
- Very thick information on most all responses
- It has now moved out of the arena of the taskforce and into the arena of the evaluation committee. This committee is not a sub-committee of the taskforce
- The open meeting law does not apply to this evaluation committee
- Everything will be confidential from this point forward
- If members of this taskforce are selected to be on this evaluation committee, they will be asked to sign confidentially statements and the whole process is to remain confidential until award is made
- Will be using expertise of various areas to assist in the evaluation
- Will be using the scope of work that was developed by this taskforce
- Names listed are all primes and supported by other vendors
- Evaluation will begin after the Christmas holiday
- Goal is to make a recommendation about the award prior to the end of January to the JLBC

Cathy Poplin thanked Richard Adickes for all his help and support.

Cathy Poplin stated she would like to solicit one or two more people for the evaluation team if anyone was interested. If interested, she needs a commitment to a 2-hour training session in January as early as they can, and a full day consensus scoring toward the end of January. If this is something you would like to do, she encouraged dropping a note or sending her an email. It was clarified that the commitment was the ‘meeting commitment’ then you would have three weeks to evaluate on your own. Then everyone returns for the consensus. Cathy Poplin ended by stating “we will now move on to the silent phase of this process”.

District/School Applications for Middle School Math Pilot

Cathy Poplin opened this part of the meeting on the applications and the schools that will apply to be a part of this. Cathy stated everyone should have a draft; which was homework. It was acknowledged that they had received responses. However, this was the time to bring forward any additional ones, and/or any comments to see if we were on the right track. A point was made that if anyone felt his or her school was going to participate in the application you may want not to include yourselves in this discussion. Cathy Poplin explained that this is where a person needs to sign a disclosure form that was handed out to avoid any conflict.

Ruth Catalano encouraged anyone to advise her of any grammatical errors in the application. Discussion involved the motivational piece, the data input, the charts, demographics, school report card, the 5th grade input, raw scores, professional development planning, and the pre-test. A conversation ensued on when to post this. It was a consensus that it not to be posted until a vendor is selected.

Ruth Catalano asked Ted Kraver if he could research something for her. It was requested that on the very first page, and very first sentence, that the legislative session be put in that passed the bill. Cathy Poplin encouraged everyone to continually give them feedback. They were advised to send them to Ruth Catalano and to copy Cathy Poplin.

ADE’s Data Integration Model for the Middle School Math Pilot Project

Don Houde gave an IT perspective overview on how they are going to handle data integration. He elaborated on the sustainability and the protection of the data. He reiterated that he was not here to encumber the process, or to control it, but to build a sustainability model. A question was mentioned regarding standards. A discussion by the group brought many noted facts of what they knew was happening outside of the agency. Don Houde mentioned the reasons of why not all standards are put on the public domain. One specific mention was hackers and examples of what they try to do.

Another question was raised specific to a data integration server that IT is going to purchase and how do they envision it working with the vendor selected. Don Houde stated it depended on how the vendor collects his information and he explained the process. A discussion evolved on standards and its clarity. It was duly noted that the RFP states data standards must be compliant with SIF.

In closing, Cathy Poplin asked Don House who would be a representative on the committee. Don Houde stated that it would be him, and due to the level of commitment it would be only on the advisory committee.

Online Learning – Representative Andy Tobin

Cathy Poplin introduced Rep Andy Tobin and mentioned he had a vision for education which he will share. He began by thanking everyone for what they are doing. Today he was going to speak as a parent, more than as legislator, because he has five children of his own. He gave a short story on “how are the children” of Arizona which is his focus. He doesn’t feel our children are doing well and he doesn’t feel our system is where it needs to be. He followed with a brief synopsis of his background and his views on how education is funded. He said that a bill was passed that no longer penalizes districts for graduating a student early. They will now continue to fund the districts, with a stipulation that a portion of the funds be set aside for the student to continue their post secondary education. In his view, it is time to create the resources to start graduating students early. His vision is to walk through a classroom on your laptop which directs you to virtual learning. He mentioned that

he knows Mesa already has curriculum online and the potential of other districts connecting with their system to help their own students would be ideal. It was noted that Mesa is already doing that with other districts. It would be so advantageous to the rural areas in the state to go online and know that teachers are accessible to teach; and, to tap into systems that are already working. His new goal is find sponsors so that the state can move forward with online teaching. A discussion evolved of having a student have at least one online class to graduate to prepare them for the future of technology learning. He encouraged and welcomed any suggestions, help and direction to move forward with his goal; and he again thanked the group.

TAPBI Consortium Report presented to State Board on 12/10/07

Cathy Poplin introduced Herb Dwyer and Mike Ruppel from Tempe Union High School District. Herb Dwyer began by stating that he represented the Arizona E-Learning Consortium (the seven district TAPBI schools) whereby they are working on developing standards for online courses. The presentation to the State Board last week was in fact a response to a much publicized Auditor General's report. He gave an overview of what TAPBI is, how they came about, and who is involved. He mentioned that Tempe Union High is one of the seven public districts involved. He was representing the district TAPBI schools only. The needs of the public schools and the needs of the charter schools are different. Some of what comes out of the Auditor General's report reflects these differences. The purpose of the report last week was to define where we fit into this whole process and examples were given. The seven districts under TAPBI are Deer Valley USD, Lake Havasu USD, Marana USD, Mesa USD, Peoria USD, Tempe UHSD and Tucson USD. He noted for information these seven districts collectively represent 23% of students in the state; we're talking some big school districts. The consortium meets monthly except during the summer months. They feel by sharing knowledge, ideas and concerns they would become more effective ourselves individually. Their mission is three-fold and Mr. Dwyer defined each:

- Provide advocacy and support for high-quality rigorous online instruction
- Promote strong standards for evaluating online programs
- Lobbying for equitable legislation supportive of online education

Focus of report was on the financial issues. Mr. Dwyer continually gave examples, reiterations on the benefits of academic performance; which is one of their main concerns. The focus of their work is the quality educational opportunities for the student. In his summarization, he stated their goals are to provide online courses that are as good as our face-to-face courses, at the very minimum. Additionally, given the added abilities of technology enhancing this learning, they feel it could potentially be even better. Mr. Dwyer finalized, elaborated and explained all of the nine recommendations that were noted at the end of the Auditor General's report.

Cathy Poplin brought up the question as to what the taskforce can do to support them. Mike Ruppel and Ted Kraver gave their views and the future picture. One statement given was that the groups mentioned here today are not in competition with each other but complimentary of each other. However, it is a small population and we need to open up our thinking. Group then opened with comments, varying views, suggestions, research comments, and economic access on technology.

Next Meeting Date

Cathy Poplin stated the next meeting is January 7, 2008. She asked if anyone had agenda items to please send them to her.

Public Testimony

No one acknowledged acceptance to speak.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned 12:10pm