

Arizona eLearning Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting Wednesday, April 28, 2010 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

Members Present:

Kim Flack Represented by Mark Becker
Coy Ison
Ted Kraver
Sandi Grandberry

Mark Nichols
Matt Morales
Cathy Poplin, Chair

Members Not Present:

Rosy Escandon
Joseph O'Reilly

Handouts:

- Agenda for April 28, 2010
- Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2010
- ExpectMoreArizona.org flyer – Ted Kraver
- The New Media Consortium: Horizon Report 2010 K-12 Edition
- Education Week: E-Learning 2010 Assessing the Agenda for Change

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

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and began with the introductions and member updates.

- Ruth Catalano, ADE Consultant, introduced herself and informed the ELTF of the AzTEA WOW (Way Out West) Conference. The conference will be Saturday, May 1st at Raymond Kellis High School from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kevin Honeycutt will be the keynote speaker.
- Coy Ison, Executive Director of AzTEA, introduced himself and asked the ELTF to join him at the WOW conference, no further updates to report.
- Mark Becker, with Arizona PBS Eight, will be representing Kim Flack. Mark reported that PBS Eight just completed a middle school writing contest and received 1,400 entries.
- Brett Hinton, ADE Director of Educational Technology, introduced himself and informed the ELTF the Ed Technology unit had their first meeting with the 21st Century Classroom grantees. The ADE Research and Evaluation unit will assist with the evaluation process for the grantees. Brett will keep the task force informed.
- Sandi Grandberry, with For the Love of Software, introduced herself and informed the ELTF she has just been accepted at the University of Phoenix for their PhD program in Advanced Administration Education. Majority of the courses will be online.
- Mark Nichols, with ASU/IDEAL, introduced himself and gave a brief update on SkySong's Inaugural Education Innovation Conference. Very nice turnout. One topic discussed was that out of the 100 top universities around the world, ninety percent of the universities are located in the United States. China has one and India has two.

- Ted Kraver, with eSATS, introduced himself and provided a brief update on the first out of four statewide meetings by Expect More Arizona. A nonpartisan partnership dedicated to making education Arizona's top priority. Their main focus is designed to rally voters to make education their priority the 2010 elections. Ted will provide a report to the ELTF once the report has been completed.
- Cathy Poplin, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Educational Technology with ADE, introduced herself and provided updates on:
 - The Investing in Innovation grants are due May 11th
 - Invited to participate in a Ready to Teach Grant. A five year ready to teach grant is already through the Alabama Public Television station and EDC. Barbara Tracy and Lianda Peterman, who work with the EDC and Alabama Public Television, are writing a continuation for the five year grant. They are working to replicate what they have done in ten other states, with respect to this grant. To provide building capacity in the state for being online course facilitators and online course developers. Cathy will keep the ELTF informed.
 - Cathy will be facilitating a session at WOW titled "How to Keep Ed Tech Alive During Times of Budget Woe." There will be representatives from either no cost or low cost programs and information on Peer Coaching will be available.
- Matt Morales, Director of Communications with GITA, introduced himself and informed the ELTF the amendment placed on the education omnibus has been adopted. The amendment will establish an E-Rate office and place the E-Rate fund at GITA. All schools can go to GITA for assistance with filing for E-Rate. GITA will target schools that have not applied for E-Rate in the past. ADE will continue to be the state TPA (Technology Plan Approver).
- Cathy asked Brett to provide an update on ADEs' participation in the ABAC meetings. Brett reported, the ARRA stimulus bill provided broadband grants to be given out to assist communities, institutions and home users use broadband better. This is the second time ADE has participated in the second round of the grants. ADE is working with GITA in helping identify the rubrics for the three different categories in the broadband grants. There were nine or eleven Arizona specific grants the committee reviewed, forty multi-state grants that included Arizona. From there they submit recommendations from Arizona for projects to be funded. The decisions are made on the federal level by NTIA.

Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2010

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the minutes from the January meeting for approval. Cathy apologized for the delay in the minutes, no corrections were offered. Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ted Kraver made a motion to accept the minutes, Coy Ison seconded, with no opposition. Cathy will have the minutes posted to the ELTF website.

State Legislative Update

Cathy informed the ELTF Art Harding will not be able to attend today's meeting and asked Ted to provide an update on the bill he has been working on.

- Ted Kraver reported that HB 2720 will establish an office of digital curriculum within ADE. Ted spoke with Karen Cator, Director of Ed Technology for the USDOE, Karen and her staff are very interested and stated she would see what she could do to raise support and funds in Washington, D.C. HB 2720 passed the Senate Education Committee

about four weeks ago. The bill is currently waiting while the state budget issues and other bills are being addressed. Ted will keep the ELTF informed.

Discussion on new eLearning reports

Cathy informed the ELTF, two major documents have been released over the past few weeks.

- A. Horizon 2010 K-12 Report: The 2010 *Horizon Report: K-12 Edition* examines emerging technologies for their potential impact on and use in teaching, learning, and creative expression within the environment of pre-college education. The *Horizon Report* introduces six emerging technologies or practices that are likely to enter mainstream use in the educational community over the next one to five years. The ELTF discussed areas of interest related to the report.
- B. Education Week's E-Learning 2010 - Assessing the Agenda For Change: Each member received a copy of *Education Week: E-Learning 2010 Assessing the Agenda for Change*. This new special report aims to highlight the progress made in the e-learning arena, as well as the administrative, funding, and policy barriers that some experts say are slowing the growth of this form of education. www.edweek.org/dd

Participate in “Building Bridges to Better E-Learning” live webinar

The ELTF participated in a live event to discuss the challenges of aligning online courses with brick-and-mortar realities. The webinar was hosted by edweek.org. The moderator was Michelle Davis, senior writer, *Education Week digital Directions*. The guest speakers were Donna Hutchison, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy (Boise, Idaho) and Martha P. Rizzuto, superintendent, Tarrant City Schools (Birmingham, Alabama).

- Idaho Digital Learning – Donna Hutchison
 - Bridge 1: Work with local schools and develop local policies
 - Bridge 2: Properly Train Educators
 - Bridge 3: Quality online courses
 - Build to the future: Build capacity
 - 90% of districts in the state participate in the distance learning program
- Online Learning at Tarrant High School in Alabama – Dr. Martha P. Rizzuto, Supt.
 - Online learning is funded by the state (ACCESS Distance Learning)
 - Lab teachers paid by state
 - Lab purchased by state, Alabama now has labs in all high schools throughout the state
 - Students can access the same courses from across the state
 - Every high school student in the state of Alabama must complete at least one online course to graduate

Questions & Answers (Comments in *italics* are from the eLearning Task Force)

- *What types of professional development is used for faculty?*
 - Donna - Require 6 months worth of training before a teacher can facilitate an online course. Online teachers meet face-to-face once a year and are required to complete a 3 credit course in online instruction pedagogy to become an online facilitator.
 - Martha - Alabama has three service centers and the professionals in those three centers interview and speak with teachers interested in becoming online teachers. The service centers provide the staff development the state requires.

- *How did Tarrant School District find the money to buy the second ACCESS lab?*
 - Martha – Applied for state grants as well as received donations.
- *How much does it cost (realistically) for a district to build its own online courses?*
 - Donna – Districts decided it was not cost effective for every district and school to build their own online courses. It was decided to pool resources together. \$300-\$500 per student/seat, \$4,000 -\$5,000 to develop, it depends on how you want the course developed.
- *How do you determine the rigor of the courses and if they meet state standards?*
 - Martha – We must have a facilitator for each online class. The facilitator in majority of the cases is a certified teacher. The facilitator is there to assist the student as well as communicate between the student and teacher. The facilitator also assesses the rigor.
 - Donna – Has legislation in place to ensure all courses meet state standards. State legislation requires we must be fully accredited. Donna recommended iNACOL for online standards.
- *How do you monitor participation and address cheating?*
 - Donna – All finals are proctored and students must go to a local high school to take their finals. Due to the class discussion boards, teachers recognize their students’ voices. We also use a product called Safe Assignment; this tool is designed to compare students work from previous work stored in a database.
 - Martha – The facilitator helps, having that extra person to “watch” is critical. We also have teachers in the labs. All testing must be completed in the labs.
- *How can e-Learning classes be differentiated &/or accommodate to support students at risk or with disabilities?*
 - Martha – Principals meet with student and their parents to determine if ACCESS can assist with moving ahead. We determine if assistive technology is needed, a student may need a magnifier to enlarge the screen. Some students are willing to do things on a computer that they are not willing to do with paper or pencil. Students can recover credits right before they loose the credit or immediately after.
 - Donna – Incorporate choices, and incorporate technology. Choices address not just students with disabilities but students with different learning styles as well. Incorporate the technology needed to address the students’ needs.

Next Meeting: May 26, 2010

Cathy asked the ELTF if they wanted to meet in May. Ted suggested making the meeting contingent upon HB 2720 passing, should the bill pass then yes, meet in May. Mark agreed. ELTF will meet in May contingent upon HB 2720 passing.

Public Testimony

Dana Eriksson enjoyed the webinar, no further update.

Adjourn

Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. Coy Ison made a motion to adjourn; Sandi Grandberry seconded no opposition. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.