

## Arizona eLearning Task Force

### Minutes of the Meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Arizona Department of Education Conference Room 417

#### Members Present:

Kim Flack – via conference phone  
Rosy Escandon  
Coy Ison  
Ted Kraver

Mark Nichols  
Matt Morales  
Cathy Poplin, Chair

#### Members Not Present:

Sandi Grandberry  
Joseph O'Reilly  
5 vacancies

#### Handouts:

- Agenda for September 15, 2009
- August 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Changes to TAPBI Law
- iNACOL Promising Practices in Online Learning: Funding and Policy Frameworks for Online Learning
- National Affairs - Intelligence and College by Charles Murray – Ted Kraver

#### 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 began with the introductions.

- Ruth Catalano, ADE Consultant, commented on the 2009 Enhancing Education Through Technology external evaluator report she just completed.
- Coy Ison, Executive Director for AzTEA, talked about a new technology: real time web access which is based on RSS readers.
- Hank Stabler, ADE Consultant, went to an AASBO event with Coy Ison and heard a presentation by John Arnold, who was appointed by the Governor to handle distribution of the stabilization stimulus funds. John explained how the Governor's office will distribute the funds.
- Ted Kraver, with eSATS, had no new legislature updates. He gave each member a handout addressing the issue of measuring academic ability in high school and the probability of students dropping out of college.
- Rosy Escandon, with Cartwright School District, reported that she is seeking her Doctorate degree at ASU and will be doing research on staff development and how that related to teachers trying to integrate technology into the classroom. Cartwright is also trying to do something unique with 5 schools within the district. The administrators of

these 5 schools are willing to be a little more open & innovative with technology for their staff and students.

- Mark Nichols, with ASU/IDEAL, reported that he has been working on the new AP courses. He reported on an article in *Wired* magazine that states today's student is writing more than previous generations and their writings are tailored for a specific audience.
- Matt Morales, GITA, was joined by Galen Updike with GITA. Galen gave a brief update on the Broadband Initiative.
  - There are 54 broadband applications for Arizona which equals to about \$316 million dollars in requested applications. In addition, there is another \$115 million in requested loans.
  - A committee was formed to review the broadband applications. However, the federal government is behind in their review of the applications. Therefore, the state and federal reviews will happen at the same time. This may result in some applications passing the state review but may fail the federal review. It is unknown which ones will pass or fail the federal review.
  - Many applications target the same area. Here is an example:
    - 4 that target the Superior area
    - 3-4 that target the Pine Top and Show Low areas
    - Many that target the western Yuma County area
    - Several that target the Navajo Nation
  - The states were just notified in late July that the applications known as the BIP (Broadband Infrastructure Program) would not be subject to review by the states. This affects schools classified as remote rural locations in that 50% of Arizona is classified as remote rural locations. Most of the applications that came through for Arizona are under this program.
  - The committee will meet once in a private session and once as a public session.
  - The mapping and planning process will begin to assess the broadband access for the state of Arizona.

Cathy asked Galen to come back to the next ELTF meeting to provide more information on the Broadband Initiative.

- Kim Flack, with ASSET Eight, joined the meeting via conference phone. She informed the ELTF that Frontline Digital Nation will be a part of AzTEA's Content Vendor Expo October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also told about a STEM event related to Scientific America with Alan Alda on October 17<sup>th</sup>. This event is by invitation only, if interested please contact Kim Flack.
- Cathy Poplin, Chair for ELTF introduced herself and introduced Eric Francis who is working 10 hours a week with the Educational Technology Unit with ADE and is focusing on the AP courses. Cathy gave a brief update on the Day of Discovery for Administrators on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Supt. Horne was present for the rallies with Philippe Cousteau. The events were successful.

### **Approval of Legislative Report**

Cathy asked for a motion to approve the report. Matt Morales made a motion to accept the ELTF Legislative report, Ted Kraver seconded, with no opposition. Cathy will release the report to the public.

### **Approval of minutes from August 18, 2009**

Cathy asked the ELTF to review the minutes from the August meeting for approval. Ted Kraver noted a correction to the minutes. John Kelly stated the ELTF is one of the most important committees in Arizona and that in a year or two it will need to move the meeting location to the University of Phoenix stadium because we are doing such important work. Ted Kraver made a motion to accept the amended minutes; Matt Morales seconded the motion with, no opposition. Cathy will have the minutes posted to the ELTF website with corrections.

### **Update on IDEAL's AP online courses pilot project – Erik Francis**

Erik gave a presentation about the new AP courses, how students sign-in, etc. Erik showed the AP Calculus and the AP History courses. Content comes from NROC and was put into a Moodle environment. EduAccess is the Identity Management System that students used to get an account to logon to the system. Each online teacher has an Adobe Connect account to share/post announcements to the class, provided by ASU.

Schools involved in the pilot project are varied and include Academy of Math & Sciences, Metropolitan Arts Institute, Foothills Academy Preparatory, Chino Valley HS, San Manuel HS and Horizon HS. This group represents the districts ADE hoped to target: rural populations that don't have AP courses and charter schools. More schools are contacting Erik to find out how they may participate. ADE plans on offering additional AP courses in the future.

Similar AP courses offered by others can run from \$600 - \$1,000 for a course. AP courses through IDEAL cost \$200. Coy asked how the teachers are compensated. Erik and Cathy replied that the \$200 will offset the instructor cost but until there are most students, it does not. The rest will come from the Ed Tech state ARRA fund.

Ted asked about the business plan. Erik replied the business plan discusses the delivery method and how it will be delivered. Most AP courses offered within the district are in high demand. Points to address are how this will help reduce classroom size and allow students to take other courses they would not have been able to take due to schedule conflicts.

Gerry Bauman with SIATech asked if this was moving in the direction as just being a contract provider or becoming an LEA. Cathy responded that is just a program provider.

Gerry also stated this is a wonderful opportunity for students.

### **Update on the new Arizona Online Learning legislation – DeAnna Rowe, AZ State Board for Charter Schools**

DeAnna Rowe was unable to attend the meeting and Vincient Yanez was out ill. Cathy gave each member a copy of the new TAPBI law changes. Cathy highlighted the changes to the TAPBI law and the ELTF discussed various changes. A member asked who sponsored the bill. Cathy will find out who sponsored the bill and inform the ELTF. Matt Morales made a motion to move agenda item number 3 to the next ELTF meeting. Ted Kraver seconded, no one opposed. This agenda item will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

**Discussion on how to guide the inclusion of online learning into Arizona classrooms –  
Cathy Poplin**

Cathy informed the ELTF that Supt. Horne’s plan to “create a catalog of online learning” with the intention of increasing the use of online learning into Arizona classrooms. Supt. Horne also asked Cathy to gather a group of stakeholders to look at the possibilities of creating a catalog as quickly as possible. Mark Nichols suggested an online document of what Arizona is doing with regards to online learning. ELTF discussed disruptive innovation of the traditional classroom. Matt suggested possible tabling of agenda item 4 until further clarification is given. Task force agreed. It will be on the agenda for the October meeting.

**Next Meeting: October 21, 2009**

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Testimony**

Gerry Bauman with SIATech stated she would be interested in being a stakeholder and that she believes that online learning would most disrupt the traditional classroom. Gerry also commented the ELTF is a very astute group and thanked everyone for allowing her to speak. Cathy asked Gerry to send her an email stating her interest in becoming a stakeholder.

**Adjourn**

Ted Kraver made the motion to adjourn. Matt Morales seconded. No opposition. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.