

Delaware Center for Educational Technology
Board of Director's Meeting
Minutes of Monday, January 29, 2007
Collette Education Resource Center
Dover, Delaware

The Board of Directors for the Delaware Center for Educational Technology met on Monday, January 29, 2007 in public session at the Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, Delaware. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by The Honorable John Carney.

- Voting Board members present: Mr. Ted Ammann, Mr. John Carney, Dr. Sandy Falatek, Mr. J. Cagney France, Mr. Ken Goodwin, Mr. Dean Ivory, Mr. Thomas Jarrett, Ms. Loretta Martin, Dr. Dianne Sole and Dr. George Stone were present. Mrs. Valerie Woodruff was absent. A quorum of voting members was present.
- Ex-officio non-voting members: Mr. Russell Larson, Ms. Anne Norman, and Ms. Pat Sine were present. Mr. Richard Cordrey and Ms. Jennifer Davis were absent.
- Ms. Denise Allen, Mr. Steve Ballard, Mr. Dan Farley, Dr. Wayne Hartschuh, Mr. John McClenny, Ms. Wendy Modzelewski, Mr. Michael Morton, Ms. Pam Reed and Mr. Randy Reynolds were also in attendance.

Mr. Carney asked everyone to introduce themselves and state their position. New members, J. Cagney France and Ken Goodwin, were also asked to share any other comments about themselves. Mr. France is a teacher in the Cape Henlopen School District and is also a member of DSEA Executive Board. Mr. Goodwin is an elementary Principal in the Brandywine School District and looks forward to working with others on the DCET Board of Directors.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes from the September 13, 2006 meeting as submitted.

UPDATES

INTEGRATE

Ms. Wendy Modzelewski highlighted topics that the INTEGRATE group has been discussing.

- She said she has been cooperatively working with the Department of Technology and Information (DTI) on Internet 2 (I2) project. DCET and DTI are working on a pilot project.
- Conference invitations were sent for the February 20th Showcase of Excellence Awards Banquet. Mr. Carney asked if legislators are invited to the February 20th dinner. Ms. Modzelewski said the legislators are not invited to this dinner, but we can invite Mr. Sokola and Ms. Wagner. Mr. Morton mentioned that Vincent Lofink replaced Ms. Wagner as chair on the Education committee. Invitations will be sent by DCET office. The call for conference presentations has been extended. On May 2nd, the Legislative Hall event will be held for teachers and students. Representative Wagner will sponsor the May 2nd event.
- NetTrekker is a Web-based searching and research tool that DCET has purchased for showcase teachers, their school, students and parents. NetTrekker can best be described as a searching tool like Google, but returns only educational content.
- The eighth grade literacy project was discussed. Mr. Ivory asked about the benchmarks for 8th grade literacy. Ms. Sine and Ms. Modzelewski talked about ISTE benchmark level and simplicity.
- Smithsonian Project – A few people from the curriculum work group at the Department of Education and Wendy Modzelewski have been working with staff at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC for ways to align curriculum with standards.
- We are still waiting approval for the LoTi cluster. There was discussion about LoTi and how it can work as a cluster for professional development to help faculty use technology so children can improve in the classroom.
- DCET will offer summer academy of technology classes in July.

TechMACC

Mr. Farley described the TechMACC group as technical staff from the school districts. The top topics at their recent TechMACC meeting included:

- I2 Update – DTI has implemented Internet2 and DCET and DTI are working toward ensuring districts are aware of the opportunities.

- TLS Network Update – Broadband connection is being put in all schools. Currently, 143 schools have TLS connection.
- K12 SSLVPN – DTI recently installed and is migrating everyone in education to the new system. Mr. Jarrett said “DTI is getting very aggressive with state network security. Attempts to try to gain access to the state network are growing rapidly.” Mr. Farley stated it’s a daily balance to secure the state network yet ensure instructional activities work seamlessly. Mr. Farley mentioned that TechMACC has talked about this in detail (i.e., Administrator business side vs. education side.) Ms. Norman asked about the possibility of two separate networks. Mr. Jarrett said that would be very expensive.
- Hot Topic of Filtering. The Ed Filter Policy at DTI meets the requirement of the Children’s Internet Protection Act. Districts have the option of filtering above and beyond what happens at the state level. Mr. Ammann stated his teachers are “very pleased with how fast sites are blocked.” Dr. Hartschuh explained the process for Ed Filtering. Most requests get taken care of right away. It seems to be working very well.
- Mr. Farley talked about the cost associated of moving individual K12 services email to Exchange. Numbers have been submitted to legislators. According to Dr. Hartschuh, Exchange also provides calendar services with email.

ParTech

Mr. Ballard reported that the demand for computers has increased. Currently 1,580 computers have been requested by districts and/or charter schools. Normally, there is a 90 day wait. It now seems to take four to five months to get computers. Part of it is due to new Charter Schools making requests. A warehouse manager has been added. Also, MBNA was a major donator of computers. With the sale of MBNA to Bank of America, the policy of Bank of America is to lease computers so ParTech has lost a major supplier of donated computers.

We still need to tap state resources to recycle. Mr. France asked if there have been discussions about giving computers to all students. Yes, but it is cost prohibitive at this point in time. Mr. Carney mentioned that the goal was to “get more computers to kids in the classroom,” but this is costly. The computer-to-student ratio has increased. Mr. Ammann said that this was a “great idea, but resources and extra manpower would be a must.” Dr. Sole asked if ParTech could provide “old systems to the poorer children.” Mr. Ballard said Warner Elementary School in the Red Clay Consolidated School District has been involved with a pilot project where DCET provides computers to Red Clay and they, in turn, give them to each 5th grade student. Hookups, warranties and manpower are a concern with this project. Mr. France believes “every student in school should have computer access.” Ms. Sine said this would be a great idea, but warranties and aging computers must be considered.

This led to a discussion concerning the Technology Block Grant and a computer replacement cycle. The Technology Block Grant is only one funding source that district’s draw on for technology maintenance and support. Mr. Larson reminded everyone that the school districts can generate taxed based funds with half the local match from a previous technology allocation (approx. \$3.5 million per year). Mr. Jarrett said we need to provide funding to change the systems more frequently, perhaps every two to three years. The core philosophy concerning computer replacement has to change.

eLearning Delaware

Dr. Hartschuh reported that eLearning Delaware has been operating for the past 11 months and the project is going much better than expected. Currently, there are three approved clusters and two additional clusters on the agenda and waiting for approval. Over 400 teachers have registered in the 18 available sections. Dr. Hartschuh recently gave an eLearning Delaware presentation in Florida and has another upcoming presentation at COSN.

Mr. France said he recently finished one cluster and thought it was excellent. He believes all teachers should take these clusters, as they offer much diversity. A problem he sees, however, is that if the teacher doesn’t have the technology in the classroom, they can’t implement what they have learned.

Dr. Hartschuh mentioned that there is a request for proposal (RFP) out for a statewide online professional development registration and management system.

Vision 2015

Dr. Hartschuh said that Vision 2015 is the new vision for education in Delaware. Dr. Hartschuh and Ms. Sine are writing the technology component for Vision 2015 and this will include computer replacement cycles and a virtual school. Dr. Sole mentioned she was on the Vision 2015 Steering Committee and is now on the Implementation

Committee. Mr. Carney said we don't want to reinvent the wheel when discussing upgrading hardware and software and virtual schools.

DCET Action Plan

Dr. Hartschuh will begin working on the yearly DCET Action Plan. He also mentioned that Secretary Woodruff was unable to attend today's meeting because she had to attend a meeting in Washington, DC.

BUDGET REQUESTS

Dr. Hartschuh reminded the DCET Board of Directors that the DCET JFC Budget Hearing is scheduled for January 31st at 1 pm in Legislative Hall in Dover.

The Governor's Recommended Budget contained the following additions for DCET:

- \$500,000 – Technology Block Grant
- \$100,000 – Developing and Implementation Plan for the Delaware Virtual School and
- \$50,000 – eLearning Delaware
- The full-time eLearning Delaware Coordinator position (Federally funded in the grant) was discussed. Even with the additional state funding, we will probably need to eliminate the position in a cost-cutting effort so we can continue to meet the demand for online professional development.

Mr. Morton asked for handout as to how DCET plans to spend the \$50,000 for eLearning Delaware and the \$100,000 for the Delaware Virtual School by the January 31st hearing. Dr. Hartschuh mentioned that the plan is to get some students in courses next year.

Mr. Ammann asked if the language for the Technology Block Grant funding is changing. Dr. Hartschuh stated that he wasn't aware of any changes. The formula will remain the same, but there are new charter schools opening and this does have an effect on funding going to the districts.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 pm.