

Delaware Center for Educational Technology
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of Wednesday, September 19, 2007
John W. Collette Education Resource Center
Dover, Delaware
3:00 pm

The Board of Directors for the Delaware Center for Educational Technology met on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 in public session at the Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, Delaware. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by The Honorable John Carney.

Voting Board members: Mr. Ted Ammann, Mr. John Carney, Dr. Sandy Falatek, Mr. J. Cagney France, Ms. Loretta Martin, Dr. Dianne Sole, Dr. George Stone and Ms. Valerie Woodruff were present. Mr. Ken Goodwin, Mr. Dean Ivory and Mr. Thomas Jarrett were absent. A quorum of voting members was present.

Ex-officio non-voting members: Ms. Pat Sine was present. Mr. Richard Cordrey, Ms. Jennifer Davis, Mr. Russell Larson and Ms. Annie Norman were absent.

Ms. Denise Allen, Mr. Steve Ballard, Mr. Dan Farley, Dr. Wayne Hartschuh, Mr. John McClenny, Ms. Donna Miller, Ms. Wendy Modzelewski, Ms. Pam Reed, Mr. Randy Reynolds, Mr. Albert Shields and Mr. Bill Thomas were also present.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes from the January 29, 2007 meeting as submitted.

UPDATES

Delaware Virtual Schools – Dr. Wayne Hartschuh introduced guests: Ms. Donna Miller, Consultant and retired from West Virginia Department of Education and Mr. Bill Thomas, Director of the Educational Technology Cooperative from SREB. A Delaware Virtual School Planning Committee meeting was held on September 18, 2007. The committee has been working on the draft implementation plan. The week of Oct. 1-5 is the target date to have a draft document ready for review by the committee. The Delaware Virtual School committee consists of 18 people consisting of the statewide stakeholders, some attending today's Board meeting. Mr. Thomas spoke briefly, thanked the committee members present, and commended the work done thus far by the Department and the Delaware Virtual School Planning Committee. He believes the time is right for Delaware to begin a virtual school. SREB is a not-for-profit organization which deals with academics from grades K-20. The SREB website contains a report with updates on each of the SREB states virtual school projects.

Ms. Miller recently retired from the West Virginia Department of Education and has been a consultant with several other states developing virtual schools. She compares other states implementations to determine what will work for Delaware. The report will contain recommendations that will lead to the creation of the Delaware Virtual School. Currently, the committee is on track to have the report available for the FY09 budget process.

Dr. Hartschuh reminded everyone that DCET received \$100,000 from the Legislature as part of the FY08 budget to develop the implementation plan for the Delaware Virtual School and we have received matching funds of \$100,000 from the Vision 2015 Delaware Business Round Table. Some of this funding will be used to develop the plan, but most of the funding will be used to run a pilot project beginning in January. Initially, the funding will be used to buy seats in the online courses from third-party providers (i.e., APEX and Florida Virtual Schools). Funding will also be used to train Delaware teachers to become online instructors. The three-year plan starts with providing online courses to high school students in the first year. In the second year, will continue to offer high school online courses and conduct a middle school pilot. The final year will have high school and middle school students in online courses. The recommendations in the implementation plan will, at a minimum, include the hiring of three administrative staff and using existing administrative tools, such as eSchool Plus for pupil accounting.

Ms. Woodruff pointed out that this program will be available for all types of students with many needs. Dr. Hartschuh said next year's freshman class will be required to have two years of world languages so we anticipate

world languages will be a high need area. The current thought is to have the DVS pay all tuition costs associated with the online courses so they are offered at no cost to the school or student. Dr. Stone wanted to know if a district can purchase additional seats when the DVS funding is depleted for the year, in which Dr. Hartschuh responded “yes.” Mr. Carney was interested in the similarity of virtual schools across states. There are many similarities, but all are unique. Mr. Thomas said these are teacher lead courses with the majority of the courses being offered at the high school level. Most virtual schools are legislatively funded, with the exception of Florida which has just recently moved to an FTE model. Last year, the Florida Virtual School enrolled 55,000 students taking 74,000 virtual school courses. They now get funding based on FTE counts once the student successfully completes the virtual school course. Mr. Thomas does not recommend any state beginning with the FTE model. The Florida Virtual School is over 10 years old and they have grown into the FTE model. Most virtual schools are housed in the Department of Education. Ms. Woodruff said Delaware DOE already has teachers-on-loan which could be a model for how we could hire teachers for the virtual school. Dr. Hartschuh mentioned Jerry Gallagher, the Director of Finance at the Department of Education, is part of the planning committee and he has provided several different scenarios for the employment of online instructors.

Dr. Falatek was concerned with the courses being aligned with the state’s academic standards. All states have the same concern of aligning to state standards. The plan will recommend a rigorous course approval process to ensure the course content aligns to Delaware content standards.

INTEGRATE – Wendy Modzelewski informed the Board that INTEGRATE’s first meeting was last week with great attendance! We gave out desktop video conferencing equipment to each district so we can begin to take advantage of our Internet 2 capabilities. Training for iSAFE, a fully articulated K-12, Internet safety curriculum, has been requested by the districts and training times will be coordinated in the next month or two. As a side note, in addition to teachers, State police participate in the iSAFE training. INTEGRATE is beginning a best-practice project. First, a wiki has been created as the mechanism for districts to share their instructional technology best practice. Second, the project will also look at how districts are achieving the 8th grade technology literacy requirements. In a continuation of previous discussions, a paper on the best practice of network usage is being created. This will include video conferencing, acceptable uses of the network, the state’s acceptable use policy, bandwidth, internet use, spam, graphics, professional email and security. DCET is working with DTI to have a one page document that will assist the districts.

Dates to remember:	April 9-10, 2008	Delaware Instructional Technology Conference
	January 2008	Showcase teacher nominations due
	Feb. 12, 2008	Showcase Teacher Dinner (DCET Board members are invited)
	May 7, 2008	Legislative Hall event with Showcase teachers

The International Society for Technology in Education has “refreshed” the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S). The new NETS-S emphasize problem-solving, higher order thinking skills, creativity, innovation, and digital citizenship. The DCET formally adopted the original NETS-S and with the “refresh,” the DCET formally adopts the new and improved NETS-S.

TechMACC – Dan Farley updated the board that TechMACC met last week. Most districts had representatives in attendance. Meeting highlights included: new K-12 SSL-VPN system for people to get in the Delaware network more securely; Internet2 with the way things are routed when you video conference (goal is to marry the technical side with the instructional side so schools use Internet2 more); DTI is working with teaching schools how they are using the network; and K-12 email system recommendations will be given to the Department of Education and legislature in the next few weeks.

ParTech – Steve Ballard updated the board with the fact that 2,320 computer donations were received this past year. Even though ParTech was down one technician for three months due to medical reasons, over 1,588 refurbished computers were placed in the schools. Fifty two training classes were offered to 433 teachers. Services have been given to 17 of the 19 school districts in the past year. John McClenny has helped Dennis Rozumalski create a spreadsheet for tracking purposes. The Charlton School had an ACCESS program created by John for reports. They are very happy with that completed project. Mr. Ammann hopes that Red Clay can get some of their high school Microsoft students to be the technicians for equipment repairs for the home computers with the Warner

Elementary School project. Over 100 computers that no longer met the minimum classroom standards were given to Red Clay for Warner Elementary School 5th grade students to use in their homes.

EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology – Federal) Denise Allen updated the Board that EETT funding is about the same this year, approximately \$1.3 million split 50-50 between formula and competitive. The competitive funding was used for districts to create instructional units that integrate technology into the instruction. The ATTAIN Act has been introduced to replace EETT as part of the No Child Left Behind Reauthorization. More info to follow, but Ms. Woodruff stated that the word out of DC is that the budget acts will not be passed by Sept 30 and there will be a continuing resolution to mid-November.

TrueNorthLogic – Professional Development Registration and Management System – Dr. Hartschuh reported that TrueNorthLogic won the RFP bid for a professional development registration and management system. Hopefully, the system will be up and running in mid-October. NCCVT will pilot the registration system for their district in-service days on November 19-20, 2007. The second test of the system will be the eLearning Delaware cluster registration in December. After the two ‘test runs,’ the system should be ready for “prime-time” in January, 2008. TrueNorthLogic is customizing the system to meet the needs of Delaware, especially for the reporting of cluster completion into the DEEDS system.

FY08 Budget – DCET was very fortunate to receive partial funding for all three of our FY08 requests: \$100,000 for the Delaware Virtual School; \$50,000 for eLearning Delaware; and a \$500,000 increase to the Technology Block Grant.

eLearning Delaware - Dr. Hartschuh said that eLearning Delaware started the fourth cohort of cluster offerings this fall with the online courses beginning on September 5, 2007. There are 164 participants that started the online courses in the fall 2007 clusters. Two cohorts have completed eLearning Delaware clusters and the third cohort will be submitting portfolios in November. The cluster offerings have been a huge success. In January 2008 we hope to offer four clusters related to the Delaware Recommended Curriculum. The proposals have been submitted to the Professional Standards Board and are going through the approval process. We hope they are approved by December 1, 2007 so the clusters can be offered beginning in January.

Delaware Recommended Curriculum – Denise Allen discussed the handout of what the Delaware Recommended Curriculum Website will look like. She explained that once a teacher selects a subject, they will have available to them, examples of a model unit that have been juried. English Language Arts and Math are the first subject areas that will be populated with units and Science and Social Studies will follow. According to Mrs. Woodruff, a formal launch at the October 18 State Board meeting and an evening reception at the Sheraton will be held for the Delaware Recommended Curriculum Website. Board members were pleased to learn about the search capabilities of the Website interface.

Thinkfinity (formerly Marco Polo) – Training Grant from Verizon Foundation - Dr. Hartschuh informed the Board that the Verizon Foundation has absorbed MCI and the former Marco Polo project. They are currently in the process of re-branding Marco Polo to Thinkfinity. Delaware is in the process of applying for a \$75,000 grant for training over the next twelve months with the Verizon Foundation. This is a train the trainer model with most of the trainers being trained online then go back to their schools to train other teachers. A target start date of Oct. 1, 2007 is currently pending contract approvals.

FY09 Budget Requests – According to Dr. Hartschuh, tentative requests have been submitted to DOE that include increasing the Technology Block Grant; Delaware Virtual School and eLearning Delaware professional development. Budget Hearing: Wednesday, November 21 at 12:00Noon

Strategic Thinking / Brainstorming - Using Technology to Improve Instruction / Raise Student Achievement
Mr. Carney asked Dr. Hartschuh to put this topic on the agenda. Mr. Carney asked the board to review the handout on their own and come prepared to discuss their suggestions at a future DCET meeting for where we want Delaware to focus. Dr. Hartschuh explained that we want it to relate to Delaware Recommended Curriculum and the Framework for 21st Century Skills. The handout also included National and State examples of best practice in instructional technology. He would like Delaware to try to implement a program like eMINTS-Missouri, one of the

national examples. For the State examples, the programs from the last three years of the Showcase of Excellence in Instructional Technology were included. This document is to be used as a conversation starter. Mr. Carney expects the Board to have a good brainstorming session at the next meeting.

Path Forward – J. Cagney France asked about the status of the technology survey. Wayne has the results of the 2006 survey. We will be doing the 2007 survey at the end of October. Results are used for funding justifications, reporting to the USDOE, technology block grant, and computer replacement cycles. Dan Farley mentioned that the IRM group has been discussing the computer replacement cycle for state administrative and teacher computers, not student computers.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.