

**Delaware Center for Educational Technology
Board of Director's Meeting
Minutes of Wednesday, June 8, 2005
Collette Education Resource Center
Dover, Delaware**

The Board of Directors for the Delaware Center for Educational Technology met on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 in public session at the Delaware Center for Educational Technology Office, Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, Delaware. The Honorable John Carney called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

- Voting Board members present:, Mr. John Carney, Dr. Sandy Falatek, Ms. Loretta Martin, Mr. David Sechler and Dr. Dianne Sole were present. Mr. Ted Ammann, Mr. Jim Decker, Mr. John Doyle, Mr. Dean Ivory, Mr. Thomas Jarrett, Mr. Ronald Pierce, , Dr. George Stone and Ms. Valerie Woodruff were absent. A quorum of voting members was not present.
- Ex-officio non-voting members: Ms. Pat Sine was present. Mr. Richard Cordrey, Ms. Jennifer Davis, Dr. Charles Fletcher, Mr. Russell Larson and Ms. Anne Norman were absent.
- Ms. Denise Allen, Dr. Wayne Hartschuh, Ms. Wendy Modzelewski, Mr. John McClenny and Ms. Pam Reed were also in attendance.
- Minutes from the December 22, 2004 meeting were reviewed, but a vote could not be taken without a quorum of voting members.

Announcements

According to Dr. Hartschuh, Dr. Charles Fletcher is leaving Delaware State University. They will need to notify the DCET Board with the name of the higher education representative who will be replacing Dr. Fletcher on the DCET Board.

Congratulations were extended to Ms. Wendy Modzelewski. Her daughter, Kendra, was valedictorian of her senior class at Newark High School.

Review of Activities

Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Hearing – Dr. Hartschuh provided the requested information sheet to the Joint Finance Committee. The FY06 request for \$100,000 above DCET's base budget for a Professional Development Academy and an Online Virtual School did not make the governor's recommended budget, and was therefore, not funded. There was concern with the high cost of the one-on-one initiatives.

Delaware Instructional Technology Conference - Once again, the DCET conference was a success with over 450 people attending on Wednesday and over 350 attending on Thursday. This year, the principal at Harlan Elementary had her entire staff attend the conference on Wednesday. Mr. Carney thought the *Showcase of Excellence in Instructional Technology* and *International Gala* was great! Pictures from the Showcase and Gala event were shared with the Board. There was discussion about local representatives and senators still not attending the Showcase and Gala event. Mr. Carney recommended a geographic selection of people bring a display to the legislators at Legislative Hall. This would need to be coordinated with Legislative Council. In fact, Mr. Carney said they could possibly receive a resolution. The INTEGRATE group recently shared ideas with the DCET staff for additional ways to highlight the Showcase teachers, such as, having a recognition dinner for them prior to the Showcase event at the Conference. New to the Conference this year was the Tuesday evening children's event. Peter Reynolds, children's author and keynote speaker on Wednesday, shared with the children his children's books and how he uses technology for his illustrations.

LoTi Survey – To date, 3,833 people have taken the LoTi survey this year. Dr. Hartschuh predicts close to 4,500 will have completed the survey by the end of this school year. He has spoken with the few districts who haven't taken the survey and it looks like Brandywine and Milford school districts will participate by the next school year. The contract for professional services for the second year of the LoTi project has been submitted to the National Business Education Alliance.

LoTi Project Schools – Dr. Hartschuh has encouraged schools to work on their *Next Step Action Plans*. The current five LoTi Project Schools plan to continue during the next school year. Dr. Hartschuh hopes to add an additional

three schools. Adding three additional schools will stretch the DCET staff, but is workable. The deadline for the request for proposals is June 24, 2005.

LoTi Mentor Certification Training – There are currently 14 certified LoTi mentors in Delaware. DCET plans to offer another mentor certification training session within the next 12 months. Dr. Hartschuh is pleased with the LoTi Project thus far.

Warner Elementary School: Superstar in Education Award – The article, *A Web of Learning*, by Larry Nagengast appeared in the May/June 2005 issue of DELAWARE BUSINESS and highlights how Warner Elementary School's fifth grade students are using laptop computers and the refurbished computers DCET/Partech provided the Red Clay School District. The issue also includes an advertisement from the Red Clay Consolidated School District for the Superstars in Education award to Warner Elementary School that thanks DCET and ParTech for their support of the program. Dr. Hartschuh said MAR*TEC, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Technology in Education Consortium, created the proposed research design for Warner Elementary School. The current fifth grade students will be able to keep the computers that have been using and continue to utilize them in the sixth grade. Due to the volume of computers DCET/Partech have received, incoming fifth graders for the 2005-2006 school year at Warner Elementary School will get a new set of refurbished computers from DCET/Partech.

There was discussion about the minimum technical requirements DCET/Partech has with receiving donated computers. It was mentioned that the prison program is getting some of the older refurbished computers.

ParTech – According to Mr. John McClenny, 464 teachers have had one-on-one training this fiscal year. They receive basic skills training for application programs as requested by schools.

Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) – The President's Proposed Federal FY06 budget has eliminated the EETT program. Efforts are underway with the House and Senate to restore the EETT funding. Dr. Hartschuh said that Senator Carper and Congressman Castle have signed letters of support for the funding to be reinstated. Ms. Denise Allen pointed out that allocation of funds to the districts is 50% by formula, based on Title I allocations, and 50% by competitive grants. Districts must spend a minimum of 25% of their allocated EETT funding on technology-related professional development. Mr. Carney asked what would happen if EETT funding does not get reinstated. Ms. Allen emphasized that many of the districts in the State of Delaware depend on the federal funds for technology needs. EETT is the only dedicated funding source for technology in classrooms as well as professional development for instruction. Delaware will be hurt tremendously if we lose the federal funding. Ms. Allen also mentioned that Brader Elementary received an American Library Association – Library Technology in School Award.

Knowledge and Skills Clusters for Delaware Educators

Proposed ideas for Knowledge and Skills Clusters for Delaware educators were shared in the form of a handout with the Board. According to Dr. Hartschuh, the INTEGRATE group were pleased with the proposed ideas. The DCET will be writing proposals for 2% clusters that will entail a minimum of 90 hours of professional development for each cluster. Once teachers successfully complete the professional development activities in a 2% cluster, they receive a 2% raise for a five year period. Instead of reinventing courses, Dr. Hartschuh is proposing to bundle quality, existing programs together to form clusters. Once proposals are written, they will be submitted to the Professional Standards Board for approval. Clusters are fairly rigorous by design and of high quality. Dr. Hartschuh hopes to have two clusters ready by September/October.

There was much discussion about the different clusters Dr. Hartschuh presented. This is the new way to do professional development in Delaware. Dr. Hartschuh said DCET would coordinate the implementation of the clusters with existing staff and/or contracted personnel. Ideally, the DCET would like to initially offer the clusters at no cost to the participants, but in reality, some clusters might involve a fee that the individuals would be responsible to pay.

According to Dr. Hartschuh, DCET is on the correct path and moving forward with the cluster project. Mr. Carney was concerned with DCET's role with the cluster project and the available resources. Dr. Hartschuh explained that existing funds are available to support these activities, mainly for contracted personnel to teach / facilitate the cluster, and no additional budget request would be required. Ms. Wendy Modzelewski mentioned that "Best Practices in Professional Development" has been in the DCET Action Plan for sometime. This is not a new concept

to DCET. Ms. Modzelewski sees the clusters as an asset to the LoTi project. This is a revolving thing for DCET. Any other suggestions for the clusters should be shared with Dr. Hartschuh.

DCET Action Plan FY06-07

A draft copy of the DCET Action Plan for FY06-07 was included in the handouts. Since there was not a quorum of voting members present, this item could not be voted on. There was, however, discussion on the plan. Dr. Hartschuh mentioned that it was very similar to FY04-05 Action Plan. The Plan was modified to include the Online Professional Development Academy and Delaware Virtual School. Unfortunately, the academy and virtual school did not receive funding in the budget, but we need to keep this on the front burner. According to Dr. Hartschuh, Secretary Woodruff has been very supportive of online education. Unfortunately, Governor Minner has not recommended funding online initiatives to date.

Mr. Carney wants the DCET Board to review the Online Professional Development Academy / Delaware Virtual Schools item closer. In reality, the two should be considered separate items.

Additional Agenda Item

Providing Quality Information to Our Students – Dr. Hartschuh shared a handout with the Board concerning the purchase of quality information on the Web through subscription services. Currently, middle and high school students use UDLib/SEARCH, a collection of online library resources. There are other Web-based products that should be considered for purchase. According to Dr. Hartschuh, one example is United Streaming that offers a digital video-on-demand service from Discovery Education. The cost for Delaware to purchase this service on the statewide level is approximately \$100,000. This would cover a volume discount with subscription services to all schools. Many Delaware school districts are already purchasing these services, and the state could realize a cost savings by receiving a volume discount on a statewide purchase. The INTEGRATE and TechMACC groups have been working on video streaming and download issues. When asked by Mr. Carney what we need the DCET Board to do, Dr. Hartschuh would like to see a funding proposal for the FY07 budget request to provide these services.

Next Steps

Since there was not enough voting members present at this meeting, Mr. Carney recommended an early August or mid-September meeting to get approval by the Board of Directors. He insisted that it be clear to the board that they respond and commit to the date selected for the next Board meeting.

A copy of the revised Computer Skills Growth Chart was also shared with the Board members.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.