

**Delaware Center for Educational Technology
Board of Director's Meeting
Minutes of September 26, 2005
Tatnall Building, Room 112
Dover, Delaware**

The Board of Directors for the Delaware Center for Educational Technology met on Monday, September 26, 2005 in public session at the Tatnall Building, Room 112 in Dover, Delaware. The Honorable John Carney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

- Voting Board members present: Mr. John Carney, Mr. Ted Ammann, Mr. John Doyle, Dr. Sandy Falatek, Mr. Dean Ivory, Mr. Thomas Jarrett, Ms. Loretta Martin, Mr. Ronald Pierce and Dr. George Stone were present. Mr. Jim Decker, Mr. David Sechler, Dr. Dianne Sole and Ms. Valerie Woodruff were absent. A quorum of voting members was present.
- Ex-officio non-voting members: Mr. Richard Cordrey, Mr. Russell Larson, Ms. Anne Norman and Ms. Pat Sine were present. Ms. Jennifer Davis was absent.
- Ms. Denise Allen, Mr. Dan Farley, Dr. Wayne Hartschuh, Mr. Sheldon Hudson, Ms. Wendy Modzelewski, Ms. Pam Reed and Mr. Randy Reynolds were also in attendance.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes from the December 22, 2004 and June 8, 2005 meetings as submitted.

Announcements

The DCET budget hearing is scheduled for November 21, 2005 at the Tatnall Building, Room 112 at 3:30 pm. Dr. Hartschuh and Ms. Modzelewski will make a presentation to SEDTA about the Showcase of Excellence in Instructional Technology.

Updates

e-Learning for Educators Initiative – Dr. Hartschuh gave a brief overview to the Board, explaining that Delaware is one of eight states participating in this online professional development opportunity. The initiative is federally funded through the Ready to Teach program. Dr. Hartschuh and Dr. Michael Stetter, Curriculum Development Director at the Department of Education, plan to attend the kickoff meeting, October 26-28, 2005. A state team, which will consist of representatives from WHY?Y, District level and State level, will be formed between November 2005 and January 2006. During the spring of 2006, the grant provides an opportunity to teach teachers how to facilitate online courses. The second year of the grant will provide training on developing online courses. This is a five year grant and funding will need to be requested to sustain the program at the conclusion of the grant. As listed in the handout, “state funding needs to be built up so the state can sustain and expand the efforts above the grant funding and beyond the grant period. Starting in Year 2 of the Federal grant, state resources should be provided (\$100.0) and increased (\$50.0) in each of the following three out years giving the necessary funding (\$250.0) to sustain the efforts after five years.”

There was also general discussion on an article that recently appeared in the newspaper with network problems in the Christina School District. This discussion also centered on content vs. pedagogy. Ms. Sine mentioned the University of Delaware is in the second year of a grant to address inservice for teachers of special education to have them be qualified to teach.

Delaware Virtual School: The Time is Right! – The Delaware Virtual School would provide Web-based courses to middle and high school students. According to Dr. Hartschuh, Mrs. Woodruff will present information on Delaware Virtual School to Governor Minner. The budget request was presented at \$2,000.0, but Dr. Hartschuh shared two other scenarios (\$1,000.0 or \$500.0) depending upon demand. Currently, Delaware, with federal funds, supports some high school students are taking advanced placement courses that are offered through APEX. Mr. Ivory shared information with the board on how he sees these classes could improve the drop out rate for his district. When asked by Ms. Norman, how these classes are certified, Dr. Hartschuh responded the district or local school would award the credit to the student.

To begin, the Delaware Virtual School would purchase seats in courses being offered by other virtual schools. Florida and Kentucky are two states that have been very successful with on-line high school courses, and provide the opportunity to place students from other states in their courses. These are very vigorous courses, but would also

need to be evaluated to ensure Delaware standards were being met. There was some discussion about buying, leasing, and developing courses which would be the next step after buying seats. Once the demand for certain courses reached a point where an entire section could be filled with Delaware students, it would be more cost effective to buy or lease the course and provide a Delaware teacher. In other words, it would be more cost effective to purchase courses which already exist rather than develop courses.

Mr. Carney and Mr. Jarrett believe bandwidth could be an issue. Bandwidth is always an issue, but there are alternatives, such as, providing video clips on CD rather than using bandwidth intensive video streaming. In the current advanced placement courses, animations are delivered by CD, not over the network.

Mr. Jarrett recommended DCET use the DTI Business Case Plan to show the cost and maintenance of supporting the Delaware Virtual School. The budget request was prepared using the SREB worksheet for preparing to implement a virtual school with scenarios specific to a virtual school.

Action Plan – FY07

The FY07 Action Plan highlights six priorities for the year: Level of Technology Implementation (LoTi), Partners in Technology (ParTech), Delaware Instructional Technology Conference, Enhancing Education Through Technology Federal Grant, Best Practices in Professional Development and Instructional Technology, Delaware Professional Development Academy /Delaware Virtual School. Each area was discussed.

Level of Technology Implementation (LoTi) – Sixteen of the nineteen districts, with a total of 4,804 educators, participated in the LoTi survey during the 2004-05 school year. Brandywine, Delmar and Caesar Rodney were the only districts who did not participate.

LoTi Project Schools for the 2005-06 school year include: McCullough, H.O. Brittingham, Blades, William Henry, Sussex Tech, Kuumba, Warner Elementary and Cape Henlopen High. Dr. Hartschuh, Mrs. Modzelewski and Chris Moresch, LoTi consultant, have been working closely with the LoTi project schools. A progress report is available as a yearly report.

ParTech – According to Dr. Hartschuh, ParTech has a goal of placing between 800 and 900 computer systems in Delaware schools each year. ParTech is currently receiving so many donations that two temporary workers have been hired to keep up with the demand. Having an additional casual/seasonal person would be beneficial to the ParTech program.

Delaware Instructional Technology Conference will be held April 5-6, 2006 at the Sheraton Dover Hotel. New for 2006 will be a banquet to honor the showcase teachers in February. Showcase presentations will also take place at Legislative Hall in May for review by legislators.

EETT Grant – The districts rely on Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) federal grant funds for professional development related to technology. Projected federal budget cuts were also explained.

Best Practices in Professional Development and Instructional Technology – New clusters have been drafted. The first three proposals are in draft stage and almost ready for submission.

Summary Budget Request of FY07 – Mr. Larson recommended that DCET prioritize their requests. The requests were presented in priority level and opened up to the Board for review. The requests were discussed in length and the priority order of the DCET budget requests for FY07 was determined. The additional funding for the Technology Block Grant is the top priority.

DTI Updates

Mr. Jarrett updated the board on Transparent LAN Service (TLS) rollout. The TLS replaces current T1 lines. The Department of Technology and Information (DTI) plans to have 81 school locations up on TLS soon. All administration buildings were done by August 1, 2005. DTI began working with the districts early in September to see where TLS would be installed next. Mr. Jarrett believes the TLS rollout will ease the broadband issue. This was a huge undertaking, for which DTI paid all the hardware costs.

An update was given on the 3Com switches that had the high failure rate. It would have cost the state \$2.4 million dollars to replace the switches; however, 3Com replaced all 1,100 switches at no cost to the State of Delaware.

Major environment updates and PHRST were discussed. October is Cyber Security Awareness Month. Mr. Jarrett mentioned over there are over 4,000 attempts on a daily basis to hack into the State system. DTI will hold an open house event in early November.

October 18, 2005 DTI and the IRM will host a Technology Conference for all state agencies. DTI is working with Microsoft on a new security education push. Contact DTI staff if you have issues or concerns.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.