

ND Educational Technology Council Minutes
November 21, 2008
9:00 – 10:40 AM

Members present:	Art Conklin	Tom Cummings
Tom Eberle	Lisa Feldner	Darin King
Wayne Kutzer	Rich Lehn	Debby Marshall
Dave Massey		

Members Absent:	Bev Nielsen	Shawneen Voiles
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Staff Present:	Dan Pullen	Jody French
Jon Skaare	Deborah Janzen	

Art called the meeting to order at 9:00

Approval of Agenda

The discussion of the 2009-11 budget requests, item 8-A under Old Business, was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Wayne Kutzer moved to approve the agenda as amended. Tom Eberle seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (Yes; Conklin, Cummings, Eberle, King, Kutzer, Marshall, Massey; Absent; Feldner, Nielson, Voiles)

Consent Agenda

Debby Marshall moved to approve the consent agenda. Dave Massey seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (Yes; Conklin, Cummings, Eberle, King, Kutzer, Marshall, Massey; Absent; Feldner, Nielson, Voiles)

Council, Staff and Linkage Reports

NDSBA – School Board Association

A written report was submitted in advance to the Council.

NDCEL – Council of Educational Leaders

NDCEL is an umbrella organization for a variety of educational leaders. No organizational issues concerning educational technology were presented. Many NDCEL members believe that increasing bandwidth to schools is a good thing. There is concern that the work required to provide data to PowerSchool and the longitudinal data system will be more than what they have trained staff available. Educational Leaders are concerned that there that there is no one voice in North Dakota to speak for education.

DPI – Department of Public Instruction

The proposed DPI budget for the 2009-11 biennium is not final. Some optional line items will be added to the budget based on the recommendations of the Commission on Educational Improvement.

The 2007-09 Legislature passed a bill requiring DPI to determine the process to approve courses from out of state distance education providers for use in North Dakota schools. A meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2008 to begin the development of that approval process. The Department anticipates that a proposed process will be in place soon.

Dan asked the status of the vacant DPI Title II-D Technology Coordinator position. Staff members from both ETC and EduTech work with the DPI Technology Coordinator regularly. Dave Massey will investigate the status and send the information to Dan.

NDEA – Education Association

This report is tabled until the next meeting

SANS – State Association of Non-Public Schools

A written report was submitted.

NDSESC – Special Education Study Council

Tom C. highlighted the recommendations from the group. 1) A need to have all of the data systems in the state be compatible with the special education data system. 2) Distance education is a vital need for special education students.

Discussions are being held concerning the compatibility of the all of the data systems. The ability to use data in several systems without multiple input of the same data. The issues are being addressed. The intent is to resolve concerns to make these tools be effective without excessive staff time.

Old Business

2009-11 Budget Requests – ND ETC, EduTech, ND CDE

Lisa reported on the current budget requests. There are four K-12 requests:

1. \$4.27 million for the ongoing funding for new initiatives. The Commission on Educational Improvement is recommending \$4.27 million to the legislature.
2. \$650,000 for the ongoing costs to fund the bandwidth increase
3. \$4.2 million for one time funds.
4. ETC, EduTech and ND CDE operating budgets. ND ETC and ND CDE budget requests are at the same level as the 2007-09 budget requests, with ND CDE requesting an optional budget package for distance education development and

health insurance increased. EduTech is seeking a substantial budget increase to cover PowerSchool staff needed to statewide expansion and support.

- a. ETC will shift the 2007-09 Atomic Learning expenditure to funding video support grants.
- b. EduTech funds include moving EduTech employees from workers contracted by NDSU to state employees under ITD.

New Business

State Technology Plan for 2009-2012

The current plan needs to be rewritten and approved by ND ETC during the last quarter of the biennium. Dan has introduced this process and has received names of several volunteers willing to help revise this plan. The process is affected by the reauthorization of NCLB during coming year. The State Educational Technology Plan must comply with the new version of NCLB. Other states in the same position are considering minor changes and/or shorter approval periods.

Dan asked for a Council member to serve on the state plan revise committee. A staff member from both DPI and CTE will also need to serve on the State Technology Plan Revision Committee. Darin King volunteered to serve on this committee as an ND ETC representative.

- a. ND Century Code 15.1-21-15

Addressed in the DPI linkage report earlier in the meeting.

Council Development

The Council made suggestions for Council Development for the next three meetings.

1. ND CDE will demonstrate an online course from the end user perspective at the February 24, 2009 meeting.
2. Darin King will demonstrate/exhibit conferencing via computer through the software Dimdim.com at the April/May ETC meeting. This site offers its basic service free; it also provides services with greater functionality for paid subscriptions.
3. During the Fall 2009 ETC meeting Jody and Rich will present information on Microsoft Live and other applications providing web service for email, calendars and other services.

Policy Reviews

R-1 Continuous System Improvement

EduTech hired a full-time e-rate coordinator, Dave Skogen. He will be starting December 1, 2008. An application developer position will be advertised.

ND CDE may be calling on ETC members to testify in support of the budget.

R-2 Coordinated Educational Technology System

Jody stated that two EduTech regional staff members will be leaving and replacements will be hired. A K-12 Technology Showcase will be held again for the legislators on March 4, 2009. Ten schools will be demonstrating technology rich learning activities at the Capitol in Bismarck.

The ND Studies website continues to add content. The ND Studies text book was named a North Dakota Library Association State Document award winner for 2008.

R-3 Distance Education Delivering Comprehensive Curriculum

Dan Pullen will be making video site visits to the classrooms of the upgraded with ITV grant funds.

ND CDE continues to work with Dave Glick, the consultant, to move forward in implementing long term organizational improvements. Jon Skaare is in negotiation with Fargo Catholic Schools to provide two classes to 60 students.

R-4 Professional Development

This is a reminder that the statewide Atomic Learning license will be discontinued as of June 30, 2009. EduTech negotiated a price for individual school to subscribe to Atomic Learning.

EduTech Staff members attended the School Boards association. EduTech gave a session on Internet safety and Acceptable Use.

R-5 System Integrity Stability, and Security

The EduTech blogging and podcasting service is a pilot project in 12 schools.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2009 via video 9:00 am-12:00.

Art adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Debriefing: 3 sheets were returned. All responses indicated Satisfactory.

Submitted by Deborah Janzen