SCR 22 Task Force on State Educational Technology
July 9, 2015
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Delaware Department of Education, Townsend Building,
Cabinet Room, 401 Federal St, Dover, DE 19901

<u>MINUTES</u>

The following task force members were in attendance: Ted Ammann, Dusty Blakey, Michele Brewer, Patricia Dallas, Kevin Fitzgerald, Colleen Gause, Randy Reynolds, Matthew Korobkin, Elizabeth Lewis, Patrick Liberato, Steven Mancini, Beth Mineo, Megan Szabo, Bryan Townsend and Michael Watson. Ex-Officio member, Wayne Hartschuh, was also in attendance.

Absent were Tim Dukes, Robert Fulton, Michael Jackson and Michael League. Mr. League skyped into the meeting through Mr. Mancini's computer, but was only able to listen in.

The following people also attended from the general public: Alonna Berry, Pam Reed, Tina Shockley, Lloyd Schmitz, Debbie Hamilton and Susan Haberstroh.

I.   Introductions of Members and Staff

Michael Watson, Chair of the task force, welcomed everyone and each member was asked to introduce themselves and their roles. We have enough members for a quorum.

II.   Expectations/ Rules/ Mandates of the Task Force

Michael Watson explained that we have an economic opportunity to look at our current practice and build on our initiatives throughout the state. He sees two goals for this task force:

1.   Review current setting of public technology
2.   2. Prepare a plan for future technology.

Megan Szabo, current Delaware Teacher of the Year was asked to speak for a few minutes. She shared examples of what other teachers are doing across the United States at the National Teacher of the Year. Megan believes every teacher in the State of Delaware needs to have the same opportunity.

<u>The following meeting norms were established.</u>
- To all be part of the solution
- Seek to understand – think outside the box
- Student centered decision-making
- Suspend barriers – focus on the classroom
- Ability to speak the truth; saying yes and no

Motion was made to accept the meeting norms as presented. Voice vote was taken: All members present voted "yes." Motion carried.

Mandates of the Task Force were read.   Task force is charged to present the final report by March 30, 2016 to the Bond committee, Finance committee, as well as the House and Senate education committees.

III.   Provide Background and Review History of Education Technology plans

Dr. Wayne Hartschuh gave a brief history of how the Delaware Center for Educational Technology (DCET) office was formed. July 1, 1995 the Legislature created DCET to wire the schools in

Delaware. Delaware became the first State in 1998-99 to have internet connection in the classrooms. A copy of the original strategic plan is available on the DCET website. http://www.dcet.k12.de.us/admin/planarchive.shtml . Principles and strategic initiatives were provided in attendee packets. DCET stopped in 2003 when there was a change in organization. DCET was re-organized in 2005, and maintenance and infrastructure staff was moved to DTI. Instructional staff was moved to the DOE.

There are other educational technology plans available across the US. The national Ed Tech plan will be updated in 2015. The Broadband Imperative document will be shared electronically. NASBE is also another document that will be shared electronically. A taskforce webpage will be created for task force members and the general public to have access to electronic documents mentioned here today.

After 2005 there was no longer an Ed Tech Plan. Delaware currently lacks bandwidth. A few years ago DCET helped with online assessment in a short period of time. Dr. Hartschuh said we need to increase the broadband to the schools and increase the capacity. Michael asked Dr. Hartschuh to explain what "coming down the pike means." There is more demand, learning management systems, subscription services, etc. Dr. Brewer asked if there was ever an evaluation of the original plans. Twenty four of the original plans were approved. Dr. Mancini asked if the Superintendents have had conversations with the needs. There have been discussions not only with Superintendents, but also curriculum directors and technology coordinators. Randy Reynolds said sometimes we have the technology, but not have adequate staff to assist the teachers. Patrick Liberato believes a Technology Coordinator should be present in every classroom. Wayne Hartschuh clarified this was the State Technology Plan. Districts had to have technology plans for e-Rate funding. The last two years, DCET has not requested State Technology Plans. Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald shared concern with other schools joining them. Wayne Hartschuh said BRINC is using the new learning management system Schoology. Almost 60% of the students in the state (close to 80,000 students) will be using Schoology in the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Michele Brewer has seen changes throughout the state. Yes, there is concern with the Bandwidth. Michael Watson said this doesn't mean that all 80,000 students will be using the bandwidth at the same time. Dr. Dusty Blakey said Colonial has had to purchase extra bandwidth to allow all students and teachers to access the Learning Management System. Elizabeth Lewis wondered if districts have to purchase additional bandwidth. Wayne Hartschuh said the State provided funding for 10 MB for all districts. Some districts purchased to GB for their larger schools with 1-to-1 initiatives. Steve Mancini gave an example of what usage their district has been using. The opportunity connection to DTI and then DTI to the internet.

Next, Colleen Gause shared a PowerPoint to explain how Internet capacity has decreased the last three years. A 10MG connection will serve about 100 students. When the DCET Board was disbanded, DTI no longer has that connection for discussions.   Dark fiber (electronics that controls the bandwidth) verses TLS was also discussed. DTI has looked at routing for every school in New Castle County. All schools will be required to have a minimum requirement for practical need. PowerPoint shows examples of current use. DTI has been fairly transparent with sharing information with the districts. Filtering is done for SIPPA compliance. The filtering systems have become better and there are fewer filtering requests. If more schools and districts want to purchase extra bandwidth, it will still create problems for all. Bryan Townsend said perhaps if we looked at what might happen and costs involved for this upcoming school year. Share something with legislative. Can a sub-group be formed? Yes. **Short break.** Trisha Dallas asked how much teacher time is lost when things are reloading. Steve Mancini doesn't believe there is a quick solve. We need to build the dark fiber network, which will take years to build. Michael Watson asked what are some of the sub-committees we can form. Michael thanked Wayne and Colleen.

There was a brief 5 minutes recess. Once the task force reconvened, members were given 10 minutes to break into small groups to discuss the resolution document and make some suggestions for sub-committees. Break up into groups to look at current resolution items and come back to the table with suggestions of four or five important sub-committees.

IV.   **Path Forward / Next Steps**

Motion was made to form sub-committees in the following areas. Sub-Committees will be formed for the following areas:

Phase I
- Infrastructure and Governance (State and District involvement)
- Teaching and Learning
- Assistive Technology

Voice vote was taken to accept the sub-committees and accepted by unanimous "yes" vote.

Phase II
- Budget and Resources
- Implementation and Program Evaluation

Suggestions:
- Immediate actions for students in the next six weeks to push out info to superintendents that there is no need to wait to move forward.
- Involve other stakeholder groups that are not at the table that we need to make sure are invited to come and speak as general public.

Michael Watson reminded task force members that we need to be careful with State laws. Sen. Townsend said it is no problem with phone calls and small group meeting. If someone is to make a change to law or policy and the meetings aren't open and accessible can be a problem. Emails are public information as well. Sub-committees are to come together to share ideas and be able to make presentation to the main task force for voting at open meetings.

V.   Establish Future Meeting dates and times

The task force is required to meet bi-monthly. This doesn't mean that we couldn't meet more often. Sen. Townsend said it also doesn't mean we should. Michael Watson asked if anyone would be opposed to also meeting in August. Sub-committees could me the first hour and a half then come back together as full task force to report back group the same date in August. After a short discussion, Michael Watson summarized three things he was hearing:
- Vote on dates as is.
- Add 2nd week in August meeting and cancel September meeting.
- Add Aug. meeting and keep Sept. meeting.

After short discussion, a motion was made to meet the week of Aug. 10th, based on room availability and cancel the September 14th meeting. Voice vote was taken and passes with unanimous "yes" vote.

Members were asked to select a sub-committee in which they wished to serve.

- Infrastructure and Governance (State and District involvement)
  Committee confirmed via voice vote
  Colleen Gause, Randy Reynolds, Ted Ammann, Kevin Fitzgerald and Steven Mancini

- Teaching and Learning
  Committee confirmed via voice vote
  Senator Bryan Townsend, Patrick Liberato, Michele Brewer, Dusty Blakey and Megan Szabo

- Assistive Technology
  Committee confirmed via voice vote
  Beth Mineo, Patricia Dallas, Matthew Korobkin, Michael Watson, and

- Budget
  Elizabeth Lewis

No committee assigned (absent): Rep. Timothy Dukes, Michael League, and Robert Fulton

VI.   **Public Comment**

The floor was open for public comment. No comments were made.

We will work on setting up a website in order to share resources with the group. Task Force members will be notified where to find the resources.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded and approved by unanimous "yes" vote.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Reed, DCET Administrative Secretary
Task Force Support Staff