

SCR 22 Task Force on State Educational Technology
August 10, 2015
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. Roll call was taken. The following task force members were in attendance: Michele Brewer, Patricia Dallas, Tim Dukes, Kevin Fitzgerald, Robert Fulton, Colleen Gause, Matthew Korobkin, Michael League, Elizabeth Lewis, Patrick Liberato, Steven Mancini, Beth Mineo, Randy Reynolds, Megan Szabo, and Michael Watson. Ex-Officio members, Pat Bush and Wayne Hartschuh, were also in attendance.

Absent were Ted Ammann, Dusty Blakey, Michael Jackson and Bryan Townsend.

The following people also attended from the general public: Alonna Berry, Rachel Chen, Geri Donahue, Kristin Dwyer, Debbie Hamilton and Susan Haberstroh, Donna Johnson, Angela Moffett-Batty, Pam Reed, Tina Shockley, Lloyd Schmitz and Matthew Tseronis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members reviewed the July 9, 2015 minutes. One correction was made to the minutes: Correction on page two “Patrick Liberato believes a Technology Coordinator should be present in every **school**.” No other corrections were made. Voice vote was taken. It was unanimous to approve the July 9, 2015 minutes with the one correction.

I. Welcome & Review Meeting Norms/Mandates of Task Force (10 minutes)

Michael Watson thanked everyone for their attendance. Members were reminded that the task force would be breaking into small sub-committee groups tonight. Room assignments were given. Sub-committee chairs were provided with documents that will help guide the conversations. Keep the established meeting norms in mind as you meet:

- 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

II. Sub-Committee Breakouts (90 minutes)

The task force meeting was briefly suspended to allow the sub-committees 90 minutes to go to their respective meeting rooms to meet, and they were asked to be prepared to report back to the full task force at 6:15 pm. Members of the general public who were in attendance could attend any of the sub-committee meetings.

Infrastructure and Governance – 2nd Floor Small Lobby Conference Room

Teaching and Learning – 2nd Floor Library Conference Room

Assistive Technology – Cabinet Room

III. Sub-Committee Reports & Updates (45 minutes)

Michael Watson called the full task force meeting back to order in the Cabinet Room at 6:16. A spokesperson from each sub-committee was allowed up to 10 minutes to report out the major decision

points and next steps from their sub-committee's recommendations. Copies of the full sub-committee notes will be posted on the task force webpage: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/page/2316>.

Assistive Technology

Matthew Korobkin reported for the Assistive Technology sub-committee. Special Education Officers will conduct a district assessment of assistive technology to include all districts in the State. Beth will share out educator surveys that have been conducted in the past about assistive technology and utilization data and will share out at the next meeting. Thinking about looking at staffing assessment with assistive technology at present data and will report out next meeting. Staffing assessment will also be looked at as well. They also plan to look out at other States who are the A.T. points for lessons learned and best practices as well as our district practices. When asked if it will be reported back to sub-committee or full task force group, Matthew said both. Data they receive from the last question will help them answer the question about recommended strategies.

Improved professional development question they hope to examine and use data collected from the DATI survey, CDS and access project and will be able to provide interim reports with regards to professional development in the State on assistive technology.

They will review surveys previously discussed from DATI and figure out how they can use that as it informs them about the readiness and offering it to teachers again.

Any questions or comments? Michael Watson said The New Teacher Project (TNTP) released a report last week on the costs associated with professional development throughout the country and the effectiveness of professional development. We need to be able to evaluate the way the survey results can help us with the effectiveness of professional development. Professional development is more than training. It can also be coaching. Michele Brewer pointed out that we need a programmatic evaluation tool to evaluate what we are doing.

Teaching and Learning

Dr. Michele Brewer reported out for the Teaching and Learning sub-committee.

Their first essential question was "How do we determine the current use of educational technology in the classrooms or education settings of the State?" They plan to develop a survey for teachers. Wayne Hartschuh told the sub-committee that DCET also does an annual technology survey each year that will be used to help make decisions. Need to find out what teachers and students think is available and what they need is important. Target date for survey to be completed will be October 1. They also plan to look at data and conduct focus groups in districts.

Determine current readiness for staff to teach using educational technology. SB51 and Reg 290 took care of the teacher prep program and the needs to be implemented with technology for new teachers. Need to also know what practicing teachers believe is the effective use of technology usage. Pull Statewide resources with BRINC to share. Look at other states and see what they are doing as well.

Final essential question, "How can we coordinate strategies for pre-kindergarten to grade 12 educational technology with national standards?" We have the Common Core Literacy Standards and ISTE standards for teachers, but we can look close to tailor the needs for future. They also plan to read *Born in Another Time*.

Any questions for this sub-committee? Michael Watson asked Kevin Fitzgerald, "Do you think it will be a challenge to get teachers to do another survey?" He responded, "it depends how it is presented and the purpose."

Infrastructure and Governance

Kevin Fitzgerald reported out for the Infrastructure and Governance sub-committee. Technology needs in the classroom. How do we expand it? The sub-committee believes lacking a group that can discuss the needs, suggests recommending a standing sub-committee be created with P20 Council with various representation, like the old DCET board.

They want to also raise the minimum amount of bandwidth per school. Currently, that minimum is 10 megabytes, which is not enough. The recommendation is to raise the minimum amount of bandwidth to 100 megabyte minimum per school. Colleen Gause will crunch numbers to report out at the next meeting. Need to know the needs of each classroom and school before we can make recommendation. There will be a need for a long range plan. Liz will work on funding.

Any questions? Is security still an issue? Districts have the ability to decide on security. Wayne Hartschuh said it is the media that contains adult content that gets blocked. Steve Mancini stated that YouTube and Vimeo are considered mixed media because you don't have control over what is put on it. Safe search is important. Megan Szabo said the web browsers are blocked, but not on student apps on their phones. Security was not discussed by the sub-committee. Michele Brewer asked if teacher videos are a problem in Schoology. Michael League said this was a great example of teacher vs tech group vs instructional coach sharing knowledge out with others. Michael Watson asked if there are other sites that can be vetted into student lessons. Wayne Hartschuh said you have access to educational resources in one hand and content filtering on another hand. YouTube is the bane of their existence. Teacher tube is okay. Some CNN videos get blocked. Vimeo has some great sites, but could get to a bad site really fast. That is a content filtering issue. By default, social media is open on the State level. Districts can choose to block social media at their level. Steve Mancini believes content filtering should be at the district level. Acceptable use policy is important to have in the schools and teach the students. Beth Mineo talked about the accessibility of what goes up on websites. Videos that aren't captioned are important. Our Statewide contract with Schoology has accessibility features. We have to educate users.

IV. Establish Future Meeting dates and times

Michael Watson reminded members that the task force is mandated to meet bi-monthly. However, after the sub-committees met tonight, they may find it necessary to meet more frequently. Members received a list of proposed monthly meeting dates.

The floor was opened for how frequent the task force will need to meet to get the work done. Bob Fulton, Patrick Liberato and Kevin Fitzgerald all agreed that their sub-committees plan to meet once a month. That being said, Michael Watson made a motion to change the frequency of the meeting dates to monthly instead of bi-monthly. Seconded by Steven Mancini. The next meeting will now be September 14th as a sub-committee meeting and resume to full task force meeting to report out. Voice vote was taken. It was unanimous; all in favor. Motion passes.

V. Path Forward / Next Steps (10 minutes)

Michael Watson requested task force members submit their bios to alonna.berry@doe.k12.de.us and pam.reed@doe.k12.de.us within the next week. Alonna is Michael Watson's aide and Pam is the support staff person who has been assigned to the task force.

One task force member stated that September 14 is Rosh Hashanah. Michael Watson asked if that would impact anyone on the committee. Having no impact, it was decided to keep the September 14 date.

VI. Public Comment (15 minutes)

No one from the general public signed up to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. However, one task force member sent an earlier email asking that consideration be given for the meetings to be scheduled during the workday instead of evening hours. Members were asked for their thoughts or comments. Megan Szabo remarked it is tough for classroom teachers to get out of the

classroom during the day. Beth Mineo mentioned she is unable to make Monday evening meetings. No one expressed an interest in moving the meeting times to day. Therefore, 4:30 will remain the start time for future meetings.

VII. Meeting Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Reminder – Michael to remind task force members of upcoming meeting:
September 14, 2015 at 4:30 pm, DOE Cabinet Room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Brewer and seconded by Randy Reynolds. It was unanimous all in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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