

SCR 22 Task Force on State Educational Technology
January 11, 2016
4:30 – 6:30 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 4:30 pm by Dr. Wayne Hartschuh. Roll call was taken. We have a quorum. The following task force members were in attendance: Ted Ammann, D. Dusty Blakey, Michele Brewer, Patricia Dallas, Kevin Fitzgerald, Bob Fulton, Colleen Gause, Michael League, Elizabeth Lewis, Steven Mancini, Beth Mineo, Kimberly Reinagel-Nietubicz, Randy Reynolds, and Megan Szabo. Ex-Officio members Pat Bush and Wayne Hartschuh were also in attendance. Kimberly Reinagel-Nietubicz officially replaces Michael Jackson as the Controller General Designee.

Absent were: Tim Dukes, Matthew Korobkin, Patrick Liberato, Bryan Townsend, and Michael Watson. Matthew phoned in for the meeting.

The following people also attended from the general public: Geri Donahue, Elisha Jenkins, Pam Reed, and Kim Rodriguez. Geoff Fletcher participated via telephone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members reviewed the November 9, 2015 minutes. Motion was made by Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and seconded by Patricia Dallas to approve the November 9, 2015 minute as submitted. Voice vote was taken. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

I. Welcome

Dr. Wayne Hartschuh chaired the meeting in Michael Watson's absence. He thanked everyone for coming. One change to the agenda will be moving survey results prior to sub-committee breakouts.

II. Public Comment

No one from the general public signed up to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

III. Survey Results and Review of Draft Plan

Copies of the first draft of the SCR22 State Educational Technology Task Force report was provided to the task force in paper format. Survey results were included in the draft. Dr. Hartschuh explained that the task force would be given 20 minutes to read the draft, focusing on their sub-committee area. A detailed "Feedback Process for Monday, January 11, 2016" instruction sheet was included in the packet.

Dr. Hartschuh stated the document has been organized by State of the Nation and State of the State: Delaware. These areas look at what has happened over the last ten years when the last strategic plan was written ten years ago. What is the nation doing? What is Delaware doing? Focus on the pages related to your sub-committee. According to Dr. Hartschuh, the Delaware Today section summarizes the teacher survey results. Dr. Michele Brewer emailed the spreadsheet to the task force earlier today.

Members were asked to be ready to answer the following questions after they review the draft:

1. Does this give you the sufficient background knowledge you need?
2. Too much? Not enough? Anything missing?
3. Are there any modifications – Additions, Changes, or Deletions?

Ten minutes were allotted for task force to share their initial comments and concerns before breaking into sub-committees. Remember, this is not a polished document yet.

Comments on the beginning part of the document were not positive. A few members shared some of their concerns.

Steve Mancini thinks it's good to give the background, but why are we here. Doesn't show how we have been falling behind. Switches were replaced eight years ago, that's not recently replaced. He believes it needs a lot of work. He doesn't believe this draft addresses the concerns and recommendations that were made by the sub-committees.

Dr. Michele Brewer believes there is a lot of misleading information in this document. She thinks some of this information is very old. Nothing is cited. It doesn't flow really nice. In the Lit Review, there were a couple of areas where we were citing things from 1997. One of the big things she sees is that it leans heavily on assessment as opposed to learning. Document also focusing on using technology instead of integrating technology. In the data section, Dr. Brewer wonders why we aren't using hard numbers with the specific percentages instead of statements like "most teachers." She pointed out that teachers have taken the time to take the survey, therefore, we should be using the results of those numbers. When reporting facts, it is important to provide hard data. She believes this is a really rough, rough draft.

Colleen Gause stated there is a lot of reference to Google Systems and Student Information Systems. She believes it would be more meaningful if these terms were defined. There will be a glossary in the appendix section of the report. Explain how they are used in education. She believes Wi-Fi needs to be presented in a meaningful way.

Patricia Dallas addressed her concerns for the Assistive Technology section. She believes it is barely there. She recommends we give examples and definitions. Doesn't see results from the Assistive Technology survey. She would also like to have Matthews survey included. Matthew Korobkin is on the phone, and agrees with Patricia Dallas. They believe the survey data is critical. Dr. Hartschuh said they will use the data Dr. Brewer provided yesterday. It was not close to being put into the draft at this point.

Ted Ammann likes that both the National Level and State Level contains an educational context and a tech piece. However, he believes it should start with the educational context then move into the tech piece. The Assistive Technology portion seems to be about Delaware, yet it is in the National level section. Do we need to add a non-Delaware specific section? Dr. Hartschuh agrees that the wording of that sentence should be changes to being with "Since the time of the last strategic plan" statement.

Dr. Beth Mineo believes something more substantial needs to be said about the state of assistive technology.

Bob Fulton believes we need to tell the story and is not sure this is what is being said in this draft to reflect the group's suggestions. It needs to be put in words and terms that bring concern to those who are reading the document. If there are areas Delaware is doing really well, state that as well. Make the terms and context more understandable.

Dr. Michele Brewer said it is a broad brush stroke that doesn't really capture what is happening in Delaware. It captures the technical side with the hardware and software and assessment side, but doesn't capture education. The document needs to be more personal.

Michael League believes it needs to focus more and Delaware and also be delivered in an approachable package. He doesn't feel like it highlights the top 12 things this task force recommends.

Dr. Hartschuh thanked everyone for their comments. Geoff Fletcher and Dr. Hartschuh reviewed past sub-committee notes and minutes as well as past conversations to come up with a draft of goals and strategies. The sub-committees will break to review the goals and strategies section of the draft.

Before breaking into the sub-committees, Dr. Michele Brewer suggested we pull one person from each sub-committee to really drill down into this draft report and come up with a better framework to help Geoff as he moves forward. Dr. Hartschuh asked if they want to have a sub-committee designee or possibly other sub-committee conference calls prior to the February meeting. Each sub-committee will discuss and report their decision when the meeting reconvenes.

Dr. Hartschuh said Delaware is not where we need to be. We need to look at resources to get to where we want to be. Why is this all important? Patricia Dallas said not only teachers who need to learn about assistive technology, but social learning among peers is important. Dr. Beth Mineo said we need to include how students engage with technology in the world.

IV. Sub-Committee Breakouts.

Dr. Hartschuh reiterated that the sub-committees need to have in depth discussion on the goals and strategies section of the draft report. The meeting was suspended at 5:22 pm for the sub-committees to meet for an hour. Members of the general public who were in attendance could attend any of the sub-committee meetings. Meeting reconvened and was called back to order at 6:30 pm.

V. Sub-Committee Reports & Updates –

Due to time constraints, Dr. Hartschuh said we will take the notes from the sub-committee sessions to work on revising the draft. The sub-committees have selected the following means to communicate revisions with Dr. Wayne Hartschuh. Once the sub-committees representatives make changes, Dr. Hartschuh will be able to provide the information to Geoff Fletcher for revisions to the draft plan.

Assistive Technology - Dusty Blakey said their sub-committee plans to do a google drive and rewrite the Assistive Technology section of the plan.

Teaching & Learning – Bob Fulton and Dr. Michele Brewer will work on their revisions.

Infrastructure & Governance - Steve Mancini and Dr. Michel Brewer will work together to make revisions.

Copies of the full sub-committee notes will be posted on the task force webpage:
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/page/2316>.

VI. Next Steps

The next task force meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:30 pm.

VII. Meeting Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Michele Brewer and seconded by Megan Szabo. Voice vote taken. With a unanimous vote in favor, meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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