



EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL
NOTES
June 5, 2008

AMENDED
6-9-08

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The June 5, 2008, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was held at Iowa Public Television and various ICN sites. The following members were present at the meeting: **Al Bode**, ISEA; **Jim Bodensteiner**, Regents; **Ken Clipperton**, IAICU; **Kenneth Colwell**, IAICU; **Tim Dose**, SAI; **Mary Gannon**, IASB; **Ellen Kabat Lensch**, IACCT; **Mary Wieser for David Montgomery**, DE/CIANS; **Kathryn O'Shaughnessy**, ISEA; **Terry Rinehart**, IPTV; **Kay Runge**, DE/Libraries; **Chet Rzonca**, Regents; **Jean Torgeson**, IACCT; and **Mary Travillian**, AEA Boards. **Dean Cook**, SAI; **Greg Davis***, IASB; **Glenn Grove**, AEA Boards; and **Gail Sullivan**, DE; were absent. (**Phone connection to Greg Davis failed.*)

The following guests were also present at the meeting: Joe Cassis, Tami Fujinaka, Gail McMahon, Julie Johnson, and Cara Graziano, ICN; Jill Ferrie, RTC 1 Coordinator; Bruce McKee, RTC 2 Coordinator; Stuart Fuhs and Lois Irwin, RTC 5; Kathy Goebel, Region 5 Scheduler; Julie Thomas, RTC 6 Coordinator; Robert Reppert, RTC 9; Mark Steffen, RTC 11 Coordinator; Janelle Archer, Region 11 ICN Scheduler; Dick Stufflebeem, DMACC; Kirk Ahrends, RTC 12; Linda Abel, RTC 15 Chairperson; Rebecca Hannum, RTC 16 Coordinator; Sally Lindgren, RTC 16 (*and ETC appointee replacing the retiring Mary Travillian*); Deb Palmer, Region 16 ICN Scheduler; Michael Stokes, ICN Scheduler, Northwestern College; Barbara Peterson, ETC alternate for DE/Lib; Trista Peitzman, Kathy Borlin and Deb Fiscus, IPTV.

Some changes in membership have occurred beginning with this meeting. Mary Travillian, AEA Boards, has resigned her position effective at the close of this meeting and Sally Lindgren, Great Prairie AEA, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

David Montgomery, DE/CIANS, has resigned his position effective 6/4/08 and Mary Wieser, ETC Alternate for DE/CIANS has volunteered to fill the vacancy. A message has been sent to Gail Sullivan, DE, for her approval of this appointment.

Change to agenda during the course of the meeting—this agenda item was added following the report by Joe Cassis, ICN.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

E. ETC/RTC/ICN Organizational Restructuring Discussion

II. UPDATES

A. ICN Legislative Update

Tami Fujinaka provided an update on the legislative bills important to the ICN.

SF2432—Infrastructure Approps Bill—

\$2.2 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund for the replacement of end-of-life equipment.

\$1.8 million to provide network redundancy on the Capitol complex. The first part of a 3-part project to increase redundancy—to provide a separate ring of fiber for the purpose of communication continuity of government.

\$2.7 million for Part III leases (ICN also had a bill that was not considered on the House floor dealing with the Part III leases and leases for state government entities and the state requirement that the ICN must lease. The bill looked at providing different options when no one provided lease bids or provided bids that were not usable. The bill will be pursued again next year.)

The bill also included language that allows the ITTC to use a financing agreement with the Treasurer of State for replacement of equipment in the network.

Four FTE positions were transferred from IPTV to the ICN. These positions have been working with the ICN for 4 or 5 years but the FTEs had stayed with IPTV.

B. ICN Update

Joe Cassis covered a number of topics including internal development as well as some of the ICN's outreach programs and some issues that have come up within the ICN relating to some of their vendors.

The ICN is focusing on a major project called OSS—Operation Service Systems. It is primarily a software computer system that focuses on provisioning, networking, ordering, and support activities in maintaining a network, with the ability to exchange data and reduce the amount of redundancy in data entry or assessing data to do the circuit build-outs and to monitor various network alerts, to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the ICN staff. The timeline is 6-12 months out.

Ethernet project is progressing well. Looking at increasing the bandwidth to 10 gig throughout the network and hopefully moving off the ATM platform.

Terrawave equipment is no longer supported by the vendor. (Approximately 750 classrooms and the optronics in the FOTS room that takes in the signal will no longer be supported.)

The ICN staff will be in contact with the ETC and educational departments to identify and engage them in how to facilitate the solutions that could potentially be out there.

Customer survey was completed by a third party vendor to solicit through the email system and web portal access the ability to indicate to the ICN their perception of ICN services...84.5% satisfied or very satisfied.

The 2nd Annual In-Toto Conference for schedulers and technicians is scheduled for September 25th at the State Historical Building. There will be a pre-conference on September 24th where they are going to encourage people to provide insights on how to improve the services. The theme is “Food for Thought: Catering to Iowans.”

The official roll-out of the IP videoconferencing service called “Perfect Meetings” occurred in May. This service allows customers to communicate from desk top, notebooks, basically to anyplace in the world if you have an Internet connection and a camera head set type of facility. It is not based on hourly usage but on a subscription base of \$99 per moth. Features include: automated, on-demand, can be used anytime; seamless meetings—can have 2 to 25 locations included; voice actuated; compatible with phones and with multiple network connections—Internet, ISDN, Intranet capabilities, plus the regular dial-up PSTN; supports several types of meetings, not only the live meetings, but also stores the sessions that you are conducting and records them, then have a link back to that recording.

Information on these services can be found on the ICN web site under “ICN Services” at: <http://www.icn.state.ia.us/services/index.html>.

Joe asked Terry Rinehart of IPTV to provide an update on the K-12 Connections project, an endeavor that has been underway at IPTV in collaboration with the ICN for a few years. Terry stated that IPTV produces ICN sessions for the purpose of delivering them to K-12 school districts with basically two kinds of content: the first kind that is designed for teachers and students in the class to participate in interactively, and the second kind to support professional development and staff development for educators and other employees within the K-12 school system. There were 7573.33 ICN video hours produced through April 2008, compared to 7670.80 in FY06 and 6915.12 in FY07. A lot of partnerships have been developed with many organizations such as the Dept of Ed, Dept of Health, and Dept of Natural Resources, universities, museums, libraries, and many others. “Civil Rights in Child Nutrition Programs” was a record ICN session produced in collaboration with the Iowa Dept of Education, that included 250 ICN classrooms and more than 2,000 participants from food services and other school personnel.

Trista Peitzman said that adults that work with children have a need to receive information and training over the ICN in their home areas. Sessions for school nurses covered diabetes, vision screening, norovirus, and childhood obesity; 4 different sessions on antibullying were offered to school counselors; educators and administrators had sessions on the model core curriculum; school food service personnel have learned what the ICN is and have become the biggest supporters of the ICN. There were 206 different session titles offered this year.

For more information about the K-12 Connections project please contact Terry Rinehart (terry.rinehart@iptv.org) or Trista Peitzman (trista@iptv.org) at Iowa Public Television.

Joe Cassis also explained about the Rural Health Initiative based on an FCC grant awarded to the Iowa Hospital Assn for \$9.9 million dollars. The grant allows the ICN to connect 85-90 hospitals throughout Iowa, with 12 hospitals connected to date. Two RFPs (primarily for fiber connections and network equipment that will be at the various hospitals) will be going out. The FCC is paying for 85% of the build out and the equipment, with 15% coming from the hospitals. HF2539 named John Gillispie to be on the advisory council. This focuses on electronic records in exchange of information, and how this can be done. Iowa could potentially be the model for other states. The potential is extremely great for Iowa. There is an aggressive plan by the bill to have the plan done by July 2009, and the implementation by 2010.

Joe Cassis asked the ETC to consider an evaluation or analysis of organizational restructuring of the whole ETC/RTC - ICN/IPTV process that has been in place for 15 years. Identification of issues that could be focused on—

- the organization (ETC/RTC/ICN)
- the way in which funds are allocated or identified for usage
- what kinds of enhancements could be done on performance metrics

“It’s important that we consider these things because when these procedures were put in place the ICN was being built. Things have changed—even the players in the marketplace. We need to look at how we can be more flexible and agility is really key in this kind of market.”

This is an action item and was added to the agenda for discussion. A sub-committee was established to begin discussion on the organizational restructuring issue. Those who volunteered to be on this sub-committee were: Terry Rinehart, Kay Runge, Sally Lindgren, Julie Thomas, Kathryn O’Shaughnessy, Mary Wieser, Mary Gannon/Greg Davis, Ken Clipperton, and Michael Stokes.

Joe thanked IPTV’s Kathy Borlin and Trista Peitzman for talking to the Moldavians, 16 visitors who came to the ICN to learn about the technology and applications. They have been asked by their government to basically replicate a similar kind of technology and application throughout their country. We were honored that they considered Iowa and purposely came to Iowa for that learning experience as well as for information technology. We were able to present to them what the network could be doing and how it could be applied in various educational formats.

III. ISSUES

A. Approval of 2009 ICN Educational Video Scheduling Deadlines

Julie Johnson provided the DRAFT 2009 ICN Educational Video Scheduling Deadlines explaining that the only changes were the dates.

MOTION 1

Mary Gannon made a motion to approve the 2009 ICN Educational Video Scheduling Deadlines as submitted. Ken Colwell seconded.

Ayes—14, Nays—0, Not voting—0, Absent—4. The motion passed unanimously.

The 2009 ICN Educational Video Scheduling Deadlines were approved as submitted.

B. Approval of Recommended RTC Funding Plan and Guidelines for FY 2009

Kathy Borlin provided the DRAFT Recommended RTC Funding Plan and Guidelines for FY 2009. She stated that the funding level is status quo and there were no new schools added so there were no changes made to the guidelines except for the dates. She offered that the ETC may want to alter the template—something that may be included in the organizational restructuring discussion.

MOTION 2

Mary Gannon made a motion to approve the RTC Funding Plan and Guidelines for FY 2009 as submitted. Mary Travillian seconded.

Ayes—14, Nays—0, Not voting—0, Absent—4. The motion passed unanimously.

The Recommended RTC Funding Plan and Guidelines for FY 2009 were approved as submitted.

C. Recruitment of ETC Members for Review of RTC Plans

Kathy Borlin asked for volunteers to help review the RTC funding plans. Those volunteers were Mary Gannon, Kathryn O'Shaughnessy, and Ken Clipperton.

D. Recommendation to the ITTC for Educational Video Rates for FY2010

Following a brief discussion, members suggested that the educational video rates for FY2010 remain at current FY 2009 rates.

MOTION 3

Ken Clipperton made a motion to recommend to the ITTC that the ICN educational video rates remain status quo at the current FY 2009 levels. Terry Rinehart seconded.

Ayes—14, Nays—0, Not voting—0, Absent—4. The motion passed unanimously.

A memo with this recommendation will be sent to the ITTC.

E. Recommended Funding Request for RTC Support for FY 2010

It was suggested that requests be status quo again this year due to the current economic climate. The members agreed to recommend that the RTC funding request for FY 2010 remain at current level of \$1,364,525.

MOTION 4

Mary Gannon made a motion to recommend that the funding request for RTC support in FY 2010 remain at the current level of \$1,364,525. Jim Bodensteiner seconded.

Ayes—14, Nays—0, Not voting—0, Absent—4. The motion passed unanimously.

A recommendation that the request for RTC support for FY 2010 remain status quo at the current level of \$1,364,525 will be given to IPTV for inclusion in their budget request to the Dept of Management in late August/early September.

F. ETC Council Gender Balance

Mary Gannon reminded the council that all State boards and commissions are required to have a gender balance and a partisan balance unless there is something else in the actual statute establishing that board that states otherwise. The statute establishing the ETC/RTCs doesn't say otherwise. When the council was first established, every appointing agency made sure to appoint one man and one woman, and to maintain a partisan balance. As of this meeting the ETC council has 10 men and 7 women and one vacancy. It was suggested that those agencies that are not in balance be corrected as members resign and new appointments are made. Mary Wieser volunteered to replace David Montgomery as the DE/CIANS appointee to the ETC, making the count now 10 men and 8 women with no vacancies. **The DE contact for ETC/RTC appointments is Gail Sullivan and she has been notified.**

Mary Gannon also stated that by statute RTCs are also required to be gender and partisan balanced. Deb Fiscus will gather the information on gender and political affiliation from all RTC members and report those findings to the ETC members at the next meeting in December.

G. ICN Classroom Accessibility Requirements

It came to the attention of the council that an K-12 ICN site was being held with a No-Transmit due to a shortage of staff available to open the room throughout the summer months. Per Chapter 10 Admin rules, all classrooms shall be available for use the entire calendar year. After a short discussion it was suggested that the ETC send a memo to all K-12 Superintendents and Principals explaining the classroom accessibility rules. This memo would be sent on ETC letterhead by July 1, 2008.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. ETC Update to ITTC on July 17, 2008

Kay Runge suggested that she and Dean Cook should both present to the ITTC on July 17, 2008, since this is an ETC chair transition period. The ITTC meeting agenda was full in June.

B. Hand-off to New ETC Chair

Hand-off to the new chair, Dean Cook, could not be completed due to his absence from the meeting. Kay Runge continued as chair for this meeting and Dean will begin his duties at the next meeting.

C. New Chair to Select ETC Executive Committee

The selection of the new executive committee was tabled due to the absence of Dean Cook.

D. Election of ETC Chair-Elect

Mary Gannon stated that every appointing agency has had a member serve as the ETC chair so the cycle can begin again. Mary Gannon nominated Greg Davis to be Chair-elect for June

2009-June 2010. Greg was not in attendance to accept and an attempt was made to call him via phone.

MOTION 5

Mary Gannon nominated Greg Davis as the new Chair-elect. No other nominations were submitted. The nomination was accepted and a vote was taken. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Greg Davis is Chair-elect for June 2009-June 2010.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Kay Runge asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council . Ken Colwell made a motion to adjourn the June 5, 2008, meeting of the ETC at 10:30 a.m. Mary Gannon seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting of the ETC will be December 18, 2008, at Iowa Public Television.