

**Commission For Education Technology**  
Minutes for the Meeting of May 25, 2005

**Commission Members Attending:** Nancy Cetorelli, William Cibes, Marc Herzog, Valerie Lewis, Denise Moynahan, Bart Stanco, Betty Sternberg, Robert Vietzke, Diane Wallace, Ken Wiggin, Merle Harris

**Commission Members Not Attending:** Judy Greiman, Jack Goldberg, Michael Kerntke, Paul Picard, Patti Fusco, Barbara Gibson, Cal Heminway, George Selmont

**Other Meeting Participants:** Rob Vietzke

**Welcome**

Commissioner Sternberg called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. Commissioner Sternberg asked for a motion approving the minutes from the meeting of March 30, 2005. Commissioner Lewis moved that the minutes be approved as written. Chancellor Herzog seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CEN**

Mr. Vietzke distributed copies of the CEN newsletter, *K-12 Connections*.

Regarding the status of connections to the CEN, Mr. Vietzke mentioned the significant number of new connections that have recently been made, and expects to have almost all K-12 connections done and online by mid-June. He briefly described the issue with 6 drops where there is currently a dispute, and that a third party is working to resolve the issue.

A survey was sent to libraries in preparation for their upcoming connections. Sixty-seven libraries completed the survey. Mr. Vietzke stated that DOIT is on track for getting connections done on schedule.

Regarding the connectivity of Charter schools, the discussion included who should pay the cost of getting new schools connected, and for schools who change locations (which is more common for Charter Schools than other public schools). Commissioner Sternberg said she will look into which schools, if any, were likely to relocate in the foreseeable future. Mr. Stanco suggested that until a policy is in place, that the schools should bare the costs associated with connection to the CEN due to relocation. Mr. Wiggin added that libraries should also be responsible for these costs if they move. Mr. Vietzke voiced his concerns that schools/libraries might end up with limited connections if they are responsible for these costs.

The issue was raised about what the policy should be for State agencies that might like to be connected to the CEN. Mr. Vietzke went on to mention that there are security and other issues that make it sensible for state agencies not to be a part of CEN. Mr. Vietzke mentioned that the issue of state agency connections is on the agenda because someone made a specific request. Commissioner Lewis explained that the Department of Higher

Education is being asked to be a host site that is why it is on the agenda. Ms. Wallace stated that she believes it is a much larger issue and we need to research costs and other details involved before making any decisions. Chancellor Cibes spoke strongly in favor of connecting all state agencies, but felt that each agency should pick up the cost. Mr. Vietzke reiterated that he is generally against state agency connections because the security requirements are immensely different with each agency. Mr. Wiggins added that he is in favor of allowing connections of state agencies, to ensure that all state agencies are connected to ICONN. Mr. Vietzke and Commissioner Lewis both stated that all connections to CEN should be for educational purposes only. Mr. Stanco voiced his concern about E-Rate reimbursements being impacted if non-educational agencies are connected, and also stated the importance of giving access to the right content. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the CET define, as a group, what should be reasonable. She went on to say that the CET must define the reasoning for selecting agencies to be included in this network. Ms. Wallace suggested that a committee be formed to create a policy for adding other state agencies to the CEN. Commissioner Sternberg asked for volunteers to serve on this committee, and Commissioner Lewis, Ms. Wallace, Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Vietzke agreed to form the committee.

### **Summary of Technology Counts 2005**

Ms. Kaplan explained that each year, *Education Week* (a national K-12 weekly newspaper for educational professionals) publishes a special edition called *Technology Counts*, which describes key current issues in educational technology on the national level, as well as provide statewide snapshots and comparative data. Ms. Kaplan distributed and provided an overview of this year's edition to the Commission.

### **Strategic Plan**

Ms. Kaplan gave an overview of the current strategic plan, which was written in 2002. She pointed out areas where the Commission has met its objectives and other areas where the objectives have not been fully realized, or that are no longer appropriate. An open discussion and reactions on the strategic plan ensued. Chancellor Cibes stated that he thought the Department of Education needed to take the leading role in the planning. Commissioner Sternberg stated it is worth going through the existing plan and seeing what has been done and what needs to be done. Ms. Kaplan suggested waiting until the fall when a draft of the state technology plan will be released. Ms. Cetorelli suggested that we use what other states have done and what we lack as a state as a focal point for planning. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the Commission should use the plan as a conduit to tie all the agencies together. Commissioner Sternberg asked for volunteers for the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee and Ms. Cetorelli volunteered to be lead the Sub-Committee.

### **Bills before the CT General Assembly, Bond Funds**

Ms. Kaplan mentioned that the two bills relating to educational technology and the CEN that were described at the last meeting did not make it to committee. Regarding the Laptop Initiative, Commissioner Sternberg believes that there is still a possibility that a limited "pilot" version might be funded.

Ms. Kaplan informed the Commission that at the present time, bond money for school building infrastructure has been cut significantly and the State Department of Education and DOIT are trying to have this funding restored.

### **CEN Portal**

Ms. Kaplan distributed a diagram depicting an overview of the content of a “starter” portal, mostly focusing on PK-12 resources. Ms. Kaplan asked for the Commission members’ ideas and input. Ms. Cetorelli suggested the Commission add resources under Parents. It is hoped that this initial portal/Website will be operational in the fall.

Mr Wiggin asked for clarification as to whether the portal belonged to CEN or SDE. Ms. Kaplan answered that the emphasis of this site would be SDE, though there would be links to other primary participants (libraries and higher education). Ms. Harris inquired into parental access. Mr. Wiggin answered that parents gain access via Internet at home, in local libraries and public schools. Ms. Wallace added that the connection is different in homes versus being directly connected to CEN.

### **Announcements:**

Ms. Moynihan, representing CECA on the Commission, announced that this is her last meeting, and that Nina Hansen, the current president of CECA, will be serving on the Commission. She extended her thanks and gratitude for the work that the Commission has done. Commissioner Sternberg thanked Ms. Moynihan for her work over the past 5 years on the Commission.

Ken Wiggin handed out ICONN updates, and mentioned that two new vendors had been added to the databases.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM