

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
Commission for Educational Technology  
November 29, 2006

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Members present: Russell Feinmark, Patricia Fusco, Jack Goldberg, Judith Greiman, Merle Harris, Cal Heminway, Michael Kerntke, Valerie Lewis, Gerry Papazian (for Marc Herzog), Fran Rabinowitz, George Selmont, Bill Silver Joshua Smith, Diane Wallace, Kendall Wiggin

Members absent: David Carter, Henry Dutcher, Richard Mavrogeanes, Paul Picard, Bart Stanco

Others present: Sharon Brettschneider, Karen Kaplan, Ed Klonoski, Art Skerker, Rob Vietzke, John Vittner

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Chairperson Kendall Wiggin called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**MINUTES**

It was MOVED (V. Harris) seconded (D. Wallace) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE September 18, 2006, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. The MOTION was PASSED with one abstention. (C. Heminway).

**Sponsored Participant Policy:** *A Connecticut Education Network Policy for Network Participation, Acceptable Use and Sponsored Participant Interconnection* was distributed to the Commission members in their meeting folders. Ken Wiggin distributed a revision of a paragraph in Section D. The revision included the deletion of an entire paragraph that was obsolete and also clarification on a second paragraph. The language that was deleted specified "commercial or for-profit" entities that participated. Instead the word "proposals" is used. There was agreement with this revision especially in these early stages since it's not yet clear who's interested in joining CEN. Diane Wallace expressed concern with how many proposals CEN will receive, noting that there is already a heavy workload and if too many proposals come in we may want to revisit this. Val Lewis questioned whether all colleges are connected now or only nonprofits? John Vittner replied that there are no "for profit" colleges connected to CEN. Ken Wiggin asked whether the statutes should be revisited if they don't specifically state "non profit". Michael Kerntke stated that he would like to review the contracts before any decisions are made. Val Lewis had concerns that research should be defined in this policy. Ken Wiggin suggested that the policy be adopted and then revisited. It was MOVED (M. Harris) seconded (P. Fusco) THAT *THE CONNECTICUT EDUCATION NETWORK POLICY FOR NETWORK PARTICIPATION, ACCEPTABLE USE AND SPONSORED PARTICIPANT INTERCONNECTION* BE APPROVED WITH THE SUGGESTED REVISION. PASSED unanimously.

**Report of Chair:** Ken Wiggin reported that the Division of Library Development held a very successful program entitled "Imaging Connecticut's Past", on November 14 at the Legislative Office Building. The program had great speakers from around the country. The goal is to make more of this material held by libraries and cultural heritage institutions accessible online.

Ken Wiggin is also working with the State Historian, Walter Woodward, on how to link the Connecticut History Online Project with the Connecticut Humanities Council's Online Encyclopedia of Connecticut History project.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Chair of the Nominating Committee, Valerie Lewis, reported that the Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate Mark Herzog, Chancellor of Connecticut Technical Colleges as Vice Chair of the Committee. Mr. Herzog is unable to be at this meeting due to personal reasons. Ms. Lewis thanked the Committee for their input. Since this motion comes from the Committee, no second is

MINUTES

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Report of Chair

Nominating Committee

needed. The nomination of Mark Herzog to fill the position of Vice Chair of the Nominations Committee was PASSED unanimously.

**Report of Advisory Councils:**

Digital Library – The latest version of the iCONN Times was included in the Commission’s meeting folder. In an effort to publicize iCONN, announcements have been aired on WNPR public radio since November 1<sup>st</sup>. 208 15-second ads will run for several weeks. Animated banner ads will also be accessible on Courant.com and ctnow.com.

eLearning & Content – Ed Klonoski reported that there were two meetings held since the last Commission meeting. Sue Palisano was elected Vice Chair. The Advisory Council reviewed the Commission’s 2002 content-advisory document, COAST, and will use it as a reference. Materials to support the annual report and legislative agenda were worked on with Karen Kaplan.

Professional Development – Karen Kaplan reported that Scott Nierendorf has been elected to chair the Advisory Council. There was discussion on what is needed by educators at the PK-12 and college levels in terms of professional development. Val Lewis stated that we need to look at this issue in the largest scale of its applicability. Karen Kaplan also reported that the group discussed whether their charge was to advise on professional development that uses technology for educational purposes (such as distance learning in any content area), or for only professional development specifically related to using technology to enhance teaching and learning, integrated into curriculum areas. Consensus is that it was both.

Network Infrastructure & Services – This Advisory Council has met twice since the last CET meeting. The Committee nominated and elected Associate Vice President and CIO of Wesleyan University “Ravi” Ravishanker as Chair of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council discussed their charge and also reviewed the mission statement. The sense is that there will be additional applications to participate in the CEN. The Network Infrastructure & Services Advisory Council wants to meet with the eLearning Advisory Council as there may be some cross connectons that would be beneficial. There also needs to be an architecture review for additional connections to CEN. One of the new architecture policies they want to develop is filtering. The feeling is that this is an important time to develop a policy for this.

**Annual Report Draft:**

Ken Wiggin stated that if possible he would like to get approval on this report today. Karen Kaplan went through the report and asked the CET members to make sure nothing is missing from the descriptions of the progress toward attainment of the 6 statewide educational technology goals. Ms. Kaplan informed the Commission members that only Recommendation 3 is completely new, which deals with the refurbishing and distribution of computers to low income families. Karen Kaplan spoke of a program in New Haven that provides parents with refurbished computers and training and proposes that the Commission consider supporting a statewide program like this. There was a concern expressed that not just urban areas, but also rural communities be included in such a program. After some discussion, Ken Wiggin offered to try and get someone from the New Haven program to come and give a presentation on their refurbishing and distribution efforts to this Commission. Ken Wiggin also mentioned that this recommendation fits nicely with a part of our legislation that called for the creation of a “Parent Technology Academy”. Bill Silver commended the iCONN and DOIT staff for their input into this report. Joshua Smith suggested that inner city connectivity figures can be added to the report. Bill Silver stated that the high video quality capability available through the CEN deserves to be recognized in the report. Gerry Papazian stated that all twelve community colleges do have connectivity through the CEN systems office. The report is written in a way that makes it look like there is none. Ken Wiggin

Advisory Councils

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Annual Report Draft

asked Gerry Papazian to craft a paragraph for inclusion in the report that would clarify that matter. It was agreed Judy Greiman asked if costs will be included in the report. Merle Harris agreed that an estimate should be included. Merle Harris also stated that the results of the quality of learning should be shown as well as showing which colleges are using online instruction as part of their programs. This is important for legislators to see. It was decided that the more data that can be included, the better the report will be. Ed Klonoski will provide more specific data on online instruction usage for the report. Ken Wiggin will compose a section for the report on changes in the Commission's organizational structure. It was decided that the report should have an additional recommendation regarding funding. Ken Wiggin and Karen Kaplan will redraft the report and email it to the members when it is ready. Diane Wallace feels very strongly that the CET needs a Technology and Finance Committee. Ken Wiggin stated that subject would be addressed a little later in the meeting.

**Municipal Efforts (Windsor Locks):** Diane Wallace reported that she has been approached by legislators with questions on whether towns can be connected to CEN. One issue is that we have received eRate refunds of \$21.2 million from the federal government. When we allow others besides educational institutions and libraries to connect for anything non-academic, we aren't eligible for the reimbursement. John Vittner added that it isn't just an eRate issue. If we are going to look at towns and municipalities, capacity must be examined, as well as the need for upgrades and hardware. There are also security issues. Diane Wallace stated that the CET will need to do a study if these questions keep coming up. For instance, if it's going to be provided to towns would there be a charge? Ken Wiggin stated that we need to draft a document on what all the issues and expenses would be. He reminded the Commission that the legislative intent was to create an educational network. It was MOVED (Patricia Fusco) seconded (M. Harris) THAT THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF POLICY AND FINANCING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES OF PARTICIPATION AND COSTS. PASSED unanimously. Ken Wiggin stated that he will write a charter for this Committee.

**Connecting Schools to the CEN:** John Vittner stated that there is an issue on how charter schools are to be connected to the CEN. There are 16 Charter Schools. Karen Kaplan reminded Commission members that Charter Schools are each an individual school district, and that Charter Schools are among the smallest schools in the state. John Vittner surveyed nine of the 14 schools still needing connections to the CEN (two are already connected). Three of these schools have pre-K. The estimate to connect these 14 schools is \$450,000 pre-eRate reimbursement. About 50 percent would be reimbursed through eRate. Diane Wallace asked if the CET wants to pursue funding for connectivity of these schools. Ken Wiggin stated that the question is whether the same level of connection should go to these schools. Karen Kaplan added that being districts made up of only one, usually small school, strong consideration should be given for different levels of connectivity than we have for typical school districts. She added that an additional consideration is that often Charter Schools are in rented buildings, and are sometimes transient. The school could move after the expense of connection has been done. Cal Heminway stated very strongly that he feels it was CET's obligation to connect each school equally. Ken Wiggin stated that since, at this time, there is no money for connecting Charter Schools, there is still time to think this through and consider all the available options. The CET will discuss this further at their January meeting.

**Legislative Agenda:** Ken Wiggin stated that the Commission's legislative agenda would be created based on the goals and recommendations listed in the annual report. He asked the Commission members if they felt that dollar amounts should be included in the legislative agenda. The Commission members agreed that amounts should be added in each recommendation and sent back to the Commission members for their review. Diane Wallace stated that a paragraph should be added to reflect the expanding interest from municipalities.

Municipal Efforts

Connecting Schools  
to the CEN

Legislative Agenda

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**CEN Content Position** Valerie Lewis reported that applicants had been screened and interviews are to be conducted next week.

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At 3:05 p.m., it was MOVED (M. Kerntke) seconded (P. Fusco) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2007, from 10:00 – 12:00, in the Old Judiciary Room, on the third floor of the State Capitol.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kendall F. Wiggin, Chair

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Jane Beaudoin, Recorder