

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
 Commission for Educational Technology  
 September 18, 2008

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Members present: Russell Feinmark, Patricia Fusco, Judith Greiman, Cal Heminway Marc Herzog, George Kahkedjian, Michael Kerntke, George Claffey (for Ed Klonoski), Joshua Smith, Bart Stanco, Bill Silver, Diane Wallace, Barbara Westwater (for Mark McQuillan), Kendall Wiggin

Members absent: Henry Dutcher, Ed Klonoski, Rich Mavrogeanes, Michael Meotti, Anthony Palermino

Others present: Sarah Edson, Karen Kaplan, Randall Osborn, John Vittner  
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Chairperson Kendall Wiggin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**MINUTES**

It was MOVED (M. Kerntke) seconded (D. Wallace) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE May 28, 2008, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS CORRECTED. The minutes reflect that Marc Herzog was not present when, in fact, he was. The MOTION was PASSED with one abstention (C. Heminway).

Report of the Commission Chair: Ken Wiggin stated that this is the last meeting for Commission member Cal Heminway. Cal has been with the Commission since its inception and has been very instrumental in the progress of the Commission's work. On behalf of the entire Commission, Ken thanked Cal Heminway and extended him best wishes. Karen Kaplan presented Cal with a gift. Cal thanked the Commission members and expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to work with this group. He introduced John Blevins from CAFE as his replacement on the Commission.

Ken stated that with the Commission's permission he would like to add a discussion on Internet Filtering to the agenda under Use of CEN Funds. It was agreed.

2008-2009 Educational Technology Policy/Legislative Agenda. Each bulleted budget initiative on the handout was touched on. They include: Executive Director/CET Staffing, Educational Content, iCONN Additional Databases, Professional Development, Connecting all School Buildings to the CEN and Upgrades to the CEN. Cal Heminway asked about the possibility of having charter schools included in the CEN connections initiative, so that all school districts would be connected to the CEN (since charter schools are their own school districts and have not yet been connected). John Vittner replied that the Dept. of Information Technology (DOIT) did submit this as a budget initiative last year but it did not get funded. It was agreed that the CEN connections initiative should be broadened to include charter schools but there is concern that this money would come from the general fund, so has little likelihood of being supported.

Karen Kaplan stated that through the Secondary School Reform Initiative, Commissioner McQuillan is hoping to include a request for funding of technology professional development and also to better connect all middle schools to the CEN. The federal funding for educational technology that has been used for professional development in the past has been reduced. The Commission discussed other budget initiatives including the importance of reminding the legislature that funding for an Executive Director for the Commission for Educational Technology is needed.

George Kahkedjian stated that CET should have an impact statement for each initiative to better show how the funding gets put to use. He feels it's more important to be specific with the Commission's intentions especially when requesting funds.

MINUTES

Report of the Chair

Agenda change

Leg. agenda

Karen Kaplan explained the Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA). PEGPETIA is a program that accepts proposals and awards grants four times a year through the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). 50% of the grant money is available to local community and state-wide community antenna television and video advisory councils, public, educational and governmental programmers and public, education and governmental studio operators to subsidize capital and equipment costs related to producing and procuring such programming. The other 50% of the grant money is available to boards of education and other education entities for education technology initiatives. Karen Kaplan submitted a grant proposal on behalf of CET for professional development for teachers to be trained on the use of the CEN Website resources. Ken Wiggin submitted a grant proposal to fund additional iCONN databases. Ken Wiggin stated that he feels the DPUC may not be the best place to administer the educational technology part of the grant program, and perhaps the Commission could take a lead role in the grant program. He will speak with Commission member and Commissioner of DPUC Tony Palermino on the best way to approach the issue.

Karen Kaplan brought up the subject of cyberbullying as a possible subject that CET may want to address. She explained that many states have enacted legislation relating to cyberbullying in schools. Bill Silver stated that he feels it is impossible to "police" cyberbullying, and that legislation requiring districts to address it is already covered under existing bullying laws. Legislating new requirements will make matters in schools more difficult to handle. Schools must already have policies in place for bullying that occurs during school hours and on school grounds. Several Commission members agreed that bullying is already covered under existing laws and that perhaps it would be better to develop some guidelines that might assist districts in modifying or implementing their bullying policies to better address cyberbullying issues. Ken Wiggin stated that recommendations to address cyberbullying will be drafted and brought to the Commission to consider at a future meeting.

Another subject on the legislative agenda handout is online learning for high school students. Karen Kaplan stated that currently there is no funding for online learning at the high school level. George Claffey distributed information on the CT Virtual Learning Center. Enrollment for the 08-09 CT Virtual Learning Center (VLC) is now open to all high school students enrolled in a CT school. CT VLC administers the courses, and the school in which the student is enrolled awards the credit and provides support. The list of courses offered can be found at [www.ctvirtuallearning.org/courselistings.cfm](http://www.ctvirtuallearning.org/courselistings.cfm). The cost for each online courses is \$400 per student per semester course. Commission members discussed whether funding for the CT VLC would be a good item for their legislative agenda. There was some concern that given the current fiscal constraints and other priorities, they should not request funding at this time. This in no way indicates that the Commission doesn't agree with and support this issue.

Also on the legislative agenda document is School Construction Regulations/Legislation. Bill Silver explained that any construction that occurs on school property is reimbursable. Anything that occurs off school property is not – so fiber optic connections to the building would not be covered. In order to get CEN connectivity to the school, fiber optic connections are needed. Though state bond funding has been used previously to help with these connections, it takes a long time to be released even after it has been approved ('06 funds are still to be released). Ken Wiggin stated that he would like to come back to the Commission with a more formal presentation that is intended to help guide the Commission and help with prioritizing the next legislative session's agenda.

**Update on CEN:** Sarah Edson went over her CEN Program News document. She shared her hopes that multimedia science content would soon be available to all middle school students and science teachers.

Update on  
CEN

Sarah detailed the newly added content and applications on the CEN Website.

**CEN Technical Update:** John Vittner updated the Commission on CEN Technical matters.

CEN Tech

Network Operations- Since the beginning of the school year Helpdesk/Service Requests have gone up significantly. CEN staff resolved 90% of the requests within 1 business day.

Update

Outreach/Technical Seminars-CEN staff is working on three technology seminars for this academic year. Seminar topics are Advanced Security, Best Practices and Video Conferencing.

On December 2-4 CEN is hosting a workshop for designing, setup and operation of an IPv6 network. Registration information will be going out soon and reduced rates will be offered to CEN members.

Network Activations- CEN finished the network activation to the Dept. of Higher Education. Memorandums of Understanding are in progress for connections to many more sites.

Off-Shift Monitoring- UCONN is about to award a contract that will provide off-hours network monitoring for critical network segments and connections.

Content Filtering Project- Over the summer, CEN staff completed migrations to the new 8e6 content filtering solution to each school district and participating libraries. This project was completed ahead of schedule.

CEN Rates- CEN subscription rates have decreased for the fifth year in a row. Sprint has been added as a third commodity internet provider for the network.

At the end of John's report Diane Wallace stated the Dept. of Information Technology has gone through a reorganization and John Vittner has been promoted to State Network Architect. This will mean that John will no longer be dedicated to the CEN on a full-time basis. Sarah Edson will be taking on more of a leadership role with CET as John starts his new position. The entire Commission congratulated John with applause and thanked him for his outstanding work and ability to keep the work of the Commission moving forward.

**Use of CEN Funds:**

Karen Kaplan reminded the Commission that funds were approved at the last meeting to be used for middle school science content and disaster recovery, but that there were still additional unallocated funds.

CEN Funds  
Middle School  
Online  
Resources

Future Expenditures- Ken Wiggin recommended that the Commission consider allocating the remaining funds to network improvements/upgrades. It was MOVED (P. Fusco) seconded (D. Wallace) THAT THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ALLOCATE REMAINING FUNDS TO NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADES. PASSED unanimously.

Disaster  
Recovery

Future  
Expenditures

**Internet Filtering-**

Ken Wiggin reported that there is pressure from schools to change the current mandatory level of internet filtering. Many schools would like the Commission to reconsider filtering levels. Educators in these schools are concerned that they are not able to access sites that are needed for optimal teaching, and that the filtering threshold currently in place should be reduced. Karen Kaplan urged that the matter be addressed earlier than the next scheduled Commission meeting in November. For this reason, it was agreed that there will be a special meeting to discuss and act on the filtering issue on October 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the State Office Building, Room 307A. Ken will prepare discussion points for this meeting.

Internet  
Filtering

**Tech 4-All CT Status Project**

Ken Wiggin reported that the Commission received two bids for this project. The contract was awarded to a non-profit organization in New Haven called Concepts for Adaptive Learning (CfAL). CfAL has done an outstanding job at refurbishing high-quality used computers and forming a partnership with the AT&T Foundation to provide these computers, a year of internet access, training and technical support to 240 low income Connecticut families with school-age children. The Tech-4-All-CT project will be implemented in four cities next month - Hartford on

Tech 4-All CT

October 6, Bridgeport on October 13, Waterbury on October 20, and New Haven on October 27.

**Annual Report** - Karen Kaplan stated that she is working on the Annual Report and is trying to put emphasis on highlighting programs and excellent uses of technology occurring in Connecticut. Karen requested that any Commission member with a specific story of exemplary educational technology uses should please let her know so she can include it in the Annual Report.

Annual Report

**Advisory Councils**

**eLearning, Content, & Professional Development Advisory Council**- The slate of Proposed Members for 2008-09 includes 3 new members-Bill Derry (Westport Public Schools), Barbara Haeffner (Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), and Michael Young (UCONN-NEAG School of Education). It was MOVED (J.Smith) seconded (B. Westwater) TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP FOR THE eLEARNING, CONTENT, & DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL 2008-2009 WHICH INCLUDES Bill Derry (Westport Public Schools), Barbara Haeffner (Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), Michael Young (UCONN-NEAG School of Education) PASSED unanimously.

Adv. Councils

eLearning, Content & Professional Development Advisory Council Motion

**Network Infrastructure and Services Advisory Council**- Randall Osborn distributed a memo to the Commission from the Network Infrastructure and Services Advisory Council which recommends that there be no mandatory minimum content filtering for primary or sponsored participants of the network. Several school districts have reported that the mandatory minimum filter settings block access to many valuable resources that students and teachers need to be able to access.

Network Advisory Council

**08-09 Meeting Schedule** -The following dates/locations reflect the revised CET meeting schedule for 08-09. All meetings are 10:00am-12:00noon.

Meeting Schedule

- September 18, 2008-Legislative Office Building, Hartford
- November 20, 2008-Legislative Office Building, Hartford
- January 29, 2009, Metropolitan Learning Center, Hartford
- March 26, 2009, Tunxis Community College, Farmington
- May 28, 2009, Charter Oak State College, New Britain

**Announcements**

Announcements

Josh Smith announced that the CT Educators Computer Association (CECA) Conference will be held on October 21, at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Commission members are invited at no cost. Josh asked that interested members email him and he will send the registration form. Attendance was encouraged.

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At 12:03 a.m. it was MOVED (P. Fusco) seconded (D. Wallace) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 20, 2008, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kendall F. Wiggin, Secretary

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Jane Beaudoin, Recorder