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| Members present: Kendall Wiggin, Chair (CSL); Mark Raymond (DAS); Martin Rose (SDE); Scott Zak (BOR); Judith Greiman (CCIC), Nick Caruso (CABE), Bill Silver (CAPSS), Cathy Swan (CECA), Kathy Giotsas (CLA), Cheryl Prevost (CEA); Patricia Fusco (CFEPE). Bart Stanco (Governor’s Office), Rich Mavrogeanes, (Pres. Pro Tem Senate); |  |
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| Members absent:Russell Feinmark(Speaker of the House), Nancy Bull (UConn), |   |
| Others present: Wendy Rego (CEN), James Mindek (CEN), Chris Smith |  |
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| **Approval of Minutes:** Ken Wiggin called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. and asked for approval of the minutes of September 10, 2012. Cheryl Prevost motioned to accept them. Patty Fusco seconded the motion. The minutes were passed.  | Minutes |
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| **Report of the Commission Chair:**  |  |
| Ken Wiggin welcomed the Commission members and introduced new member, Cathy Swan, Cathy is a technology teacher at New Canaan High School and represents CECA (Connecticut Educators Computer Association). On November 18Ken and Scott Taylor gave a presentation about the CET and the CEN to the Interagency Council on Ending the Achievement Gap. Ken noted that if there are other groups that would benefit from a presentation on the Committee, please let him know. He also participated in a conference call with CIOs from the State Universities and Mark Raymond to talk about CEN rates. There was good participation and conversation. | Report of the Chair |
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| **CEN Report**. Mark Raymond gave a quick update on CEN. The major program is the completion of the build out and improvements from the BTOP grant. A total of 426 CEN sites were impacted; there are nine remaining.Mark recognized Jim Mindek from the CEN team and reported that Jim and Wendy Rego have been invited to do a presentation on the Nutmeg Network in a meeting with municipalities and financial leadership on January 20th. This will be an opportunity for people to learn more about the network, engaging with municipalities, and the logistics of adding new members as they take on open access. Since the last meeting, the town of Berlin and Digital Back Office have been added in.There are a couple of new open positions within the network and interviews have begun. They have also begun to discuss the new rate process with constituents, which is resulting in lower costs. CEN has begun plans for an annual member conference. The tentative date for that is May 10, 2013 at Rentschler Field. | Mark Raymond State CIO CEN Report |
| **Policy Updates-Description of policies and expected changes** | Jim Mindek/Ken Wiggin |
| Jim Mindek began discussion of policy updates. Ken explained that we would like to introduce updates today and take action on them at the next meeting.Jim reported that four policies were reviewed and two were addressed with changes. He distributed a handout of the *Connecticut Education Network Policy for Content Filtering;* thedraft of a new version to be approved, and a copy of the old version.He distributed a second handout: *Connecticut Education Network Policy for Network Participation & Acceptable Use* to be approved along with the old version.Policies under construction are *Network Connection and Relocation* and an*Architecture Policy*, which Scott Taylor is working on.The Acceptable Use policy takes into account four different kinds of members with different kinds of utilization. There is now a separate category for K-12 and Library Members. State agency members have been added as a new category, and there will no longer be a nomination process for education and research members.At the end of the policy, there is link to the online Nutmeg Network Use Request Form. Mark said that rates are not changing and that “the Network is now transport based; rates are structured to capture the transport; i.e. 10 mg of connection will cost the same no matter what you are doing- internet or networking”.Cathy Swan asked if CEN had the m86 web filter. Mark replied that CEN does have that filer and that he sent out a survey about filtering last week. She expressed concern about Google filters and was told it will be addressed in 2013. There is some issue with http versus https URLs. Mike will get more information about that for her. Cathy passed around a letter of concern from a teacher in Woodbridge. Ken asked how the Open Access member’s category will be limited. Mark said that the mission and vision have been reconstructed for education and research and that will remain the concentration even though open access may be on the rise. CEN is dealing with how to incorporate ‘open access’ and it is evolving slightly. Mark said he has hired 2 students from UConn to do marketing. People have misconceptions of what CEN is. Bart Stanco questioned whether open access members would want to do their own marketing and data collection. Mark said he is looking to provide best practices and will guide schools to use best practices and not specific companies. Companies may be able to provide something that CEN cannot. Several members expressed concern about vendors pitching the network for their own profit and wondered if CEN will police companies to ensure that a regulatory issue is not created through competitive growth. Committee members have concerns about schools getting the guidance they need, and having the issues vetted since different schools provide different services. Ken said that we need to be careful about products rather than services being delivered or advertised.Mark explained that open access doesn’t mean that private companies will have access to all schools or all the fibers. We will provide the benefits of high speed Internet to towns and companies while preserving the focus of community and education. Mike said that the network will work in partnership with the State Department of Education requirements, i.e., issuing mastery tests. Rich suggested supporting those who want to advance education purposes and adding language to exclude illegal use of the network.Cathy said that every school district is not on CEN, and that Google apps for education and other educators groups are used widely. Ken and Mark remarked that this is not a financial issue; use of CEN for private schools, higher education, and grades K-12 is free. She still would like to see more educational projects on CEN, like ePals and Global Nomads, both of which are used in New Canaan. Ken asked that additional ideas or concerns be emailed to Jim Mindek.Jim reported that the contract for content filtering is running out and he wants to know what members want. For grades K-12, the state subsidizes Trustwave, although some schools have local appliances for filtering. Generic filtering will be provided for everyone. If they buy their own, they can as specific as they want in filtering. The new contract will be out in June 2013. There are cloud services and there are many companies who want to sell filtering software to state. The filtering survey went out to 270 and they have already received over 100 in a couple of days. The general consensus is that it does what it needs to do and most are satisfied with it. A decision about filtering will be made soon. Jim said that the use of the Internet is doubling at an astounding rate. Rich asked why we don’t have people purchase their own filtering software. Patty answered that most are not capable of setting it up. Ken said that there are advantages and disadvantages in having the state provide filtering. Jim recommended collaboration for purchasing licenses in mass in order to save money. Ken asked that additional thoughts about filtering be emailed to Jim before the next meeting. Ken said that, last year, the Governor proposed changing the focus of the Commission and he thinks that legislation will be introduced again this year to focus more on technology than on education. The original vision has not been fulfilled. All school building not connected to the network and at least half the libraries have low bandwidth connections. Jim said he has been director of services and member relations for CEN for about 10 months and he would also like to see the Commission have a broader goal. He would like to begin a process of bringing member’s top 2 concerns for the group to address. Rich has put together a mission statement that not only focuses on the network, but adds more ideas of enrichment and communication. The advancement of technology has to have education in its core. Rich said that people confuse the highway (CEN) with the destination. Loading destinations on the network would be good. Committee members agreed. Cheryl Prevost said that the divide between different school districts is so large, it makes it difficult to deal with the importance of educational technology and the primary goal of education. Marty would like to see more partnerships with the different educational groups and see CEN work more uniformly throughout the state and he mentioned that Utah has a good program.He is hoping the committee can be of more help and become more involved with districts that need help. Nick said he was part of this group long ago when the push was for ‘content’. He still thinks that vision is important and cost effective, but he would like to see more help given to districts with less vision. Patty said that some schools don’t even have computers or projectors. Kathy Giotsas remarked that there is a big difference in technology knowledge in schools vs. education vs. business vs. libraries. Jim commented that a lack of funding makes hiring IT specialists impossible. Bart said of areas of destinations, online education is getting very big in addition to the Utah model.Ken said there will be a longer meeting in January to address the goals and mission of the Commission. He suggested that legislators don’t know what school districts need and If we had survey results, we could report on that. He asked if the Commission could be the voice of what the districts need. Cheryl said if we’re looking for survey information, she would try to put something together. Marty said he has survey information. |  |
| **Advisory Councils**  |  |
| No report | Advisory Councils |
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| **Next Meeting** |  |
| Ken asked for a motion to adjourn and said he will send out a poll for the next meeting date. | Next Meeting |
| **Other Business** |  |
| None | Other Business |
| **Announcements** |  |
| None | Announcements |
| **Public Comment** |  |
| None | Public Comment |
| At 11:30 p.m. IT WAS MOVED by Cheryl Prevost and seconded by Nick Caruso TO ADJOURN; and PASSED unanimously.  |  |
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| Respectfully submitted, |  |
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| Kendall F. Wiggin, Chair |  |
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| Ursula Hunt, Recorder |  |