CTEDTECH
Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015

Legislative Office Building, 300 Capital Ave., Hartford, Connecticut
Hearing Room 1B
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Commission Members in Attendance:
Commission Chair Mark Raymond, Colleen Bailie, Nick Caruso, John Elsesser, Jeff Kitching, Rich Mavrogeanes , James Mindek, Michael Mundrane, Scott Shanley, John Vittner, Jennifer Widness, Ken Wiggin, Scott Zak

Others Participating:
Joe Campbell, Scott Taylor

On September 14, 2015, a meeting of the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology was held. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Mark Raymond at 1:07 p.m. The following was discussed:

- Welcome: Chair Raymond began the meeting by:

    o Reminding Commission members that this meeting is being recorded and will be shown on CTN-9.

    o Please be sure to turn on their microphones when speaking, state their names clearly before speaking, and turn their microphones off upon completion of their comments.

    o Begin the meeting with a quick introduction of each individual's name and organization. Participants introduced themselves in the following order:

        - Nick Caruso, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
        - Jeff Kitching, Office of the Governor
        - Scott Shanley, Connecticut Conference on Municipalities
        - Michael Mundrane, University of Connecticut
        - John Vittner, Office of Policy and Management
        - John Elsesser, Connecticut Council of Small Towns
        - Mark Raymond, State Department of Administrative Services, Bureau of Enterprise Services and Technology
        - Scott Taylor, Connecticut Education Network, University of Connecticut
        - Ken Wiggin, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library
        - James Mindek, Department of Education

- Colleen Bailey, Connecticut Library Association
- Jennifer Widness, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
- Rich Mavrogeanes, President, Discover Video
- Scott Zak, Board of Regents

o An apology was extended for the rotation of this meeting occurring on the Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah. Special efforts will be taken in the future to avoid similar conflicts. Appreciation was extended to those who were able to attend on this holiday.

o Chair Raymond addressed membership vacancies by welcoming and introducing Colleen Bailie and Jen Widness who have replaced Kathy Giotsas and Judy Grieman on this Commission and thanked them for assuming this responsibility.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2015**

  A Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Scott Shanley and seconded by Scott Zak. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved with one abstention by Rich Mavrogeanes.

  Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2015

  John Elsesser moved to add the July 24, 2015 conference call minutes to the agenda item, Approval of Meeting Minutes. Michael Mundrane seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

  James Mindek moved to accept the July 24 minutes, Nick Caruso seconded the motion which opened discussion.

  Several minor changes were noted.

  Nick Caruso made a motion to approve the minutes inclusive of the changes discussed. John Elsesser seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved with abstentions by Ken Wiggin and Jeff Kitching.

- **Report of Commission Chair**

o Chair Raymond offered a brief summary of the overall budget for the Education Network. At the end of the legislative session, a biennial budget was passed that provided $2,941,857 for FY16 and FY17. This was a $350,000 reduction from the FY15 budget that represented 10.6%.

o Given the increase in network users and usage, the funding provided was still adequate to produce a sizable YoY reduction in CEN rates for our members.

o   As the midterm adjustment process is beginning, we have been asked by OPM to submit budget reduction options of 5% for FY17 where possible. We have just started the process of looking at the requested reduction.

o   There is also the ability to propose revenue options if anyone has any to suggest. Any questions or recommendations for reducing costs or proposing revenue options would be invited. Chair Raymond invited Commission members to submit any comments or suggestions to him for consideration.

o   Chair Raymond provided clarification to Scott Shanley that the funding for the Executive Director position is for the full fiscal year.

- **CEN Status Report (Please see attached handout)**

o   Scott Taylor from CEN provided the quarterly report from the CEN and reviewed the contents thereof.

o   Rate Structure review project regarding Blum Shapiro were referenced.

o $3.6 million in capital funding has been secured to complete last-mile to current DSL served libraries. Scott Taylor shared that the Deputy Director of the FCC came to meet with us to discuss our CEN efforts. They have been very supportive of our efforts and responsive to our inquiries. They have offered there continued engagement throughout this process. Ken Wiggin noted that the FCC will provide an additional 10% discount to State funding for these efforts which will allow us to gain more mileage out of our budgeted dollars.

o   The Nutmeg Network Pricing handout was reviewed.

o   CEN/Nutmeg Network Pricing v. Usage was reviewed.

o   Chair Raymond asked if we were doing any survey work to determine the future 1-to-1 technology growth needs in schools. Scott Taylor said that they are not presently collecting this data, but they would like work with the Department of Education to begin that effort. Chair Raymond recommended including the future growth of libraries in this survey as well. John Elsesser recommended looking past the educational access to examine how many devices are connecting via open access when they enter the building. With individuals carrying multiple devices, including watches, kindles, phones, etc., open access bandwidth is being challenged in greater than a 1-to-1 ratio. John Vittner noted that needs for content filtering of needs to be considered as well.

o   Jeff Kitching asked about services to be piloted, noting that smaller districts without IT support will not even know that they have a connection to CEN. He inquired if CEN has plans to reach out to smaller districts in need of those types of services. In an effort to move forward and serve school districts on 1-to-1 initiatives, he noted that

there are a handful of school districts that are on the right track that can be used as models for a blueprint of future bandwidth needs. He noted that there is good information available already. Scott Taylor thanked him for his input and noted that they are working with a few libraries and school districts that are great examples of use of technology on which best practices, white papers, and examples for others can be based.

o   Colleen Bailie noted that her library still uses DSL and inquired if they are working with other library consortiums to bring these services. Scott Taylor affirmed that CEN is working closely with several library consortiums.

o   Rich Mavrogeanes discussed the possibility of CEN buying a block of IPV4 space from an ISP that is not being used and the success of V6 deployment. In reference to V4, Scott Taylor responded that we are weeks away from receiving a response from the American Registry of Internet numbers that availability has been depleted.   They just got a small reprieve in the form of another block that was just allocated to them approximately one week ago. Within 24 hours they had reallocated it to those on the waiting list. Only some small networks allocations left they are working to see if they can accept smaller blocks. We still have enough space to meet small needs of individuals. Some of our larger sites have been forced to go out to buy their own addressing. A few have found that they still own some addressing that is going unused and are making efforts to make it usable again.

o   One University acquired IPV6 over the summer and immediately half of their traffic shifted from IPV4 to IPV6. All major content sources support V6 and modern devices prefer IPV6. It does work and we need to continue to educate people on how to get there because it is the path forward.   Rick suggested that we have a session on this at the next conference due to the seriousness involved in failing to make the migration.

In response to the recommendation to purchase, Scott Taylor responded that we have been exploring ways to acquire additional IPV4 blocks which are primarily sold through brokers and auctions via a bidding process. Since our current bidding process does not allow us to participate in an auction environment, we seeking a vendor who is willing to buy it and contract to resell it to us. Another option is to find a peer that will transfer addressing to us at no cost. There have been examples of this type of sharing within the educational community. Scott has not yet been aggressive in seeking vendor or sharing opportunities; however, at a future meeting in Austin, he will meet with peers who have extensive blocks of addressing and may be willing to transfer. Rich recommended reaching out to Ocean in Rhode Island as a possible source. Scott will follow up with that recommendation.

o   John Elsesser mentioned a town that is installing LED streetlights and free public Wi-Fi access that may affect CEN.

Mark thanked Scott for his report and informative discussion.

- **Status of Executive Director Position** (see attached handout entitled "Job Posting")

  o Mark Raymond reported that the Executive Director position for the CET has been fully approved and is now posted. A copy of the job posting was distributed at this meeting. It is posted on the DAS employment website. We encourage a broad distribution of this posting, so he encouraged everyone who has newsletters or other associations that accept position postings like this, please make an effort to disseminate this information to the widest audience possible and encourage interested, qualified candidates to apply.

  Mark is soliciting for volunteers to participate in an interview panel for this important position. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to participate. The expectations of the interview panel will include reviewing the resumes against the criteria, ranking candidates, participating in the interviewing process, and confirming the selection.

  In response to Nick Caruso's inquiry, Mark Raymond affirmed that the job posting is available electronically on the CT.gov portal. The following website was shared with Commission members after the meeting: http://das.ct.gov/HRDocs/JobsExams/005_TODAY_Exec_Director_for_CET_9_14.pdf.

- **Review of Research from Public Comment**

  o In our last meeting, there was a comment from Andrew DePalma, the Director of Technology for EastConn. The nature of the comment reflected in the minutes was the role of CET in the establishment of Technology Standards for the state. The following research into the topic was presented for consideration and potential action:

    - There is a clear statutory requirement (Conn. Gen. Stat. 4d-80(c)(2)(D)) that the CET ensure "in cooperation with the State Board of Education, competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students."

    - The CET's own website it lists "Adopt K-12 computer technology competency standards for students" under Commission Responsibilities.

    - There is some ambiguity related to the charge of the Commission

    - The CT State Department of Education published technology standards in 2001 for PreK-12 and updated the information with a technology framework in 2006.

    - It is unclear whether the CET had involvement in those discussions or standards.

- In any case, the commission currently has a statutory responsibility to consider these standards alongside the State Department of Education.

- Regarding steps forward, I would recommend that we reactivate a policy committee to drive this responsibility to conclusion with the assistance of the Executive Director. This would be a voluntary committee on behalf of the commission to review relevant work in the area and review with SDE.

Scott Shanley noted that 2006 was prior to the release of the iPhone; that fact alone would be reason to move forward with this initiative.

In response to Chair Raymond's request, a motion was made by Scott Shanley, and seconded by Nick Caruso, to reconstitute the Policy Committee under the guidance of the new Executive Director. The motion was unanimously passed with no oppositions or abstentions.

Chair Raymond will be seeking volunteers from this group to participate in the Policy Committee. Of those present, James Mindek, Jeffrey Kitching, Jen Widness, Michael Mundrane, and John Elsesser all volunteered to participate in this committee. Chair Raymond will extend the invitation to the entire membership to ensure that all have an opportunity to participate.

- **Annual Report Filing**

  This Commission has been remiss in our responsibility to complete an Annual Report of the Commission's activities as required by Connecticut General Statutes. We have not filed reports for 2013 and 2014. Chair Raymond apologized that this obligation was overlooked when chairmanship of the Commission was transferred to him. The report is now in process and will encompass the Commission's activities from 2013 through present.

  The Summary Annual Report will be distributed for review and comment prior to the December meeting.

- **Other Business**

  o **Presentation by Joe Campbell RE: Open Educational Resources.** Joe Campbell shared a Power Point presentation which will be disseminated to Commission members along with the minutes of this meeting.

  Joe Campbell explained that in his role, a lot of resources come through him and he shares them with the educational institutions in our State.

  Michael Mundrane initiated discussion with Joe Campbell regarding free vs. OER. Freely available vs. freely provided was also discussed.

John Elsesser expressed that this exciting opportunity and asked by other states have had to pass laws to use it. Joe Campbell clarified that we need to look at our laws to ensure that there are no restrictions on how our educational materials are made allowable. He offered an example of verbiage that only allowed purchase of printed textbooks. The old language had to be changed to make OER usable.

Joe Campbell explained that at the present time, we have 169 schools duplicating the curriculum development efforts. OER could be leveraged to create a commonality across all school districts to ensure consistency and eliminate the need for creation of different rubrics. Michael Mundrane noted current materials gathering trends that include vetting "small chunks" of video from sources like YouTube. In response to Michael Mundrane's concerns, Joe Campbell clarified that these OERs are not complete courses, they are resources of vetted material from all mediums that can save the educators from having to do their own multi-media research.

Jen Widness referenced legislation regarding Open Source Textbooks that was just passed that requires public higher education to work together to establish a pilot program of open source text books and a task force convening for establishing best practices on Open Educational Resources. She noted that others outside this group are beginning to have this conversation including the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC).

Scott Zak referenced CTDLC working on a parallel to this initiative with librarians. He summarized that the OER serves as a resource for teachers to preselect from a collection of well-curated and well-vetted material to enhance their curriculums. Joe Campbell confirmed that this is not a matter of creating curriculums, it is a matter of having materials readily available for teachers so their time can be best spent instructing students rather than searching for material. Scott Zak also noted that eliminating the cost of text books can result in huge savings.

Jim Mindek thanked Joe Campbell for his presentation and referenced a former presentation that Joe Campbell and Abe Krist made to this Commission some time ago. He noted that Connecticut has one of the best networks by far and it is unfortunate that it does not yet have these organized materials available. Having access to a resource to obtain certified well-prepared content would be helpful to our educators and we should try to help them with this.

Ken Wiggin noted that a new Executive Director should allow us to bring CEN into the legislative conversation more effectively going forward. Ultimately we need a place to put all this content and to continue to manage it.

Rich Mavrogeanes stated that at least 50 towns in the State are doing this at the local district level rather than at the State level and it is important to make this content available statewide.

Michael Mundrane stated that the network is generally the major focus of this Commission; however, our responsibilities go beyond that. Our libraries and schools need to truly leverage the CEN infrastructure. The bigger struggle is not the connection, it is how we leverage it after it is provided. Mark Raymond noted that we have a tremendous advantage with our access. He agreed with Michael and hopes that having a Director in place will enhance the content and capabilities of this asset.

Ken Wiggin noted that we often get CEN and CET mixed up. CEN is an outgrowth of CET. CEN needs to move forward on content, teacher competency, and other issues. Better communication with the Department of Education, Higher Education and the Board of Regents will help us to focus on larger issues.

John Vittner shared that there were two other advisory councils that existed in the past and could be initiated again after the Director Position is held. One council was focused on ELearning and Content; the other was a Professional Development Advisory Council. He referenced the State Statute which charges this Commission with: *"Providing access for all public schools, public libraries, and libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other collections in order to maximize buying power".* In Summary, the intent of the statute is to support these efforts. Mark Raymond supported this recommendation.

Mark Raymond closed by thanking Joe Campbell for the presentation and the discussion that followed.

o John Elsesser recommended the Edge Project presenting to this Commission. Ken Wiggin will explore this opportunity with the Chair of that project.

Mark Raymond thanked him for the recommendation and asked that Commission members share any recommendations for future agenda topics as they arise.

- **Public Comment:** No public comment

- **Future 2015 Meeting Dates:**

o The next meeting is scheduled to take place on December 7, 2015. The 2016 dates will be forthcoming.

- **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Mavrogeanes and seconded by Scott Zak. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned by Mark Raymond at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Aleshia Hall
Executive Secretary to Mark Raymond