



Governing Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2018

Trevor Thomas brought the meeting to order at 9:05am. The following members were present to answer the roll call: Joyce Malainy (C-TEC), Matt Sheridan (Crooksville), Jeff Brown (Granville Ex Village), Trevor Thomas (Heath), Mary Kay Andrews (Lakewood), Kevin Snyder (designee, Lancaster), Philip Wagner (Licking Heights), David Hile (Licking Valley), Ruth Zitnik (Maysville), Aaron Sable (Medina), Bill Seder (Mt. Vernon), Scott Hartley (North Fork), Scott Schmidt (Northridge), Mark Neal (Tri-Valley), Ted Harrison (designee, West Muskingum), and Chad Carson (LACA). Also in attendance were Jo Lynn Torbert (Licking Valley), Jon Burkhart (Medina), David Chambers (Medina), Ryan O' Cull (Medina), and Dean Reineke (LACA).

Dean Reineke, Director of Operations, LACA was introduced to the group.

18-017 It was moved by Scott Hartley and seconded by Mary Kay Andrews to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 Governing Board meeting. No discussion took place. A vote of approval was taken.

Chad Carson distributed financial reports from January via email prior to the meeting. These reports included proposed budget appropriations for FY19, as well as the SLA Schedule A outlining fees for Fiscal, Student, Library, and hosted services for FY19. There was a 0% fee increase on the Schedule A for FY19.

18-018 It was moved by Joyce Malainy and seconded by David Hile to approve the financial reports and FY19 budget as presented. A vote of approval was taken.

Chad Carson discussed the need for LACA to replace an aging server infrastructure with a new system. The latest trend in server technology being implemented around the state is Hyperconverged Infrastructure. This new system will speed up LACA services with faster processors and faster storage. Chad also discussed the option of running the Software Answers suite of products (StudentInformation, Gradebook, SpecialServices, Datamap, and Virtual Classroom) in the MCOECN hosted server environment. This environment is also built upon Hyperconverged Infrastructure, and has advantages as well. If this option were used, the need for a new server infrastructure at LACA would be on a smaller scale. LACA staff are still debating the pros/cons of running Software Answers products in-house vs. hosted and should reach a decision very soon. Chad is presenting this information now to get pre-approval to move on the new server infrastructure purchase potentially in March/April, rather than waiting until the May Governing Board meeting to get approval. LACA has built funds into the budget over the last few years to allow for these periodic infrastructure refreshes. Philip Wagner asked what



the expected lifespan of this new purchase would be and Chad informed the group that it was expected to last 5 years before being obsolete and requiring a refresh. The group provided feedback that Chad was to make the best informed decision on whether to take the Software Answers suite to the MCOECN hosted environment or keep it in-house and proceed accordingly, without requiring a vote of the board at a future meeting. Chad gave a worst case scenario of \$200,000 for a full server upgrade, but in reality costs would be lower than this worst-case cost.

18-019 It was moved by Jeff Brown and seconded by Matt Sheridan to approve the purchase of a Hyper-Converged Server Infrastructure upgrade, not to exceed \$200,000. A vote of approval was taken.

Chad Carson shared with the group that Medina City Schools has passed a local board resolution on January 22, 2018 indicating their desire to leave the LACA ITC and become a member of the NEONET ITC as soon as possible. Representatives from Medina attended today's Governing Board meeting and presented their rationale for leaving the LACA consortium to the group. Based on the rules of the LACA Constitution, after a district passes a board resolution to leave the consortium, they are eligible to leave after the 2nd June 30th following that resolution date.

After discussion, it was agreed upon by the group that LACA, NEONET, Medina, and the LACA members would work together to craft a departure plan that would be beneficial to everyone. Representatives from Medina, the Executive Director of LACA, and the chairperson agreed that they would continue discussions with the goal of agreeing on a proposal to present to the governing board at the May meeting.

The LACA Personnel Committee has recommended that voting upon LACA staff salary increase for FY19 and LACA staff contract renewals for FY19 would be done at the May 2018 Governing Board meeting. Historically these have been done at the February meeting. The rationale was that LACA staff salaries operate on a fiscal year cycle, so it doesn't make sense to evaluate them on only 7 months of performance before making recommendations. Also, LACA staff salaries are calculated on an AVERAGE base salary percent increase from our 20 member districts. In February, many of the districts have not yet negotiated their base salary increase, and cannot provide that to the LACA Personnel Committee. Moving these items to the May Governing Board meeting allows more evaluation time, more districts to provide their % on the base numbers, and brings everything closer to operating on the Fiscal Year cycle.

Circleville City Schools have decided to stay with their current ITC for FY19. This item is off the table for the upcoming school year.



Chad Carson shared the results of the MCOECN ITC Common Customer Satisfaction Survey. While the results in many areas were not poor, in most items, LACA did rank in the lower ½ to 1/3rd when compared with results from other ITCs. LACA did experience many issues in FY18 that contributed to poor results on this survey in some areas. Chad Carson assured the group that he is doing everything in his power to bring those levels of satisfaction up for FY19.

Chad re-stated his desire to meet face-to-face with leadership at each of the 20 member schools during the 2018 calendar year. Chad Carson and Dean Reineke have met with 3 out of 20 member schools over January/February, and have more scheduled during the month of February. Chad would like to schedule as many more as possible over March/April/May, and will be reaching out to the remaining districts to schedule those dates.

Chad Carson and Bill Seder gave an update on the MCOECN's deal with Software Answers. Progress is being made on how the \$8 million from the sale of DASL to Software Answers will be used by the ITCs. It is possible that some of that money may come back to LACA, as LACA was one of the original ITCs that invested in DASL development. Chad and Bill will keep the group posted on the developments that take place at the MCOECN ITC Director's meetings regarding this project.

18-020 It was moved by Jeff Brown and seconded by Mark Neal to adjourn at 9:45am. A vote of approval was taken.