

Licking Area Computer Association

Minutes of the LACA Governing Board Meeting held August 11, 2011, convening at 9:11 am. Nelson McCray called the meeting to order. The following members answered present to the roll call: Tom Forman, Ben Streby (representing Joyce Malainy), Jay Gault, Jenny Vanover (representing Phil Wagner), Steve Short, Doug Ute, Jack McDonald (Scott Hartley), John Shepard, Forest Yocum, Mark Neal, Jeff Brown, Nelson McCray and Jon Bowers. Also in attendance were: Tim Owen (LACATech Representative) and the following treasurers: Ellen Towner, Jim Hudson, Mindy Sturm, Glenna Plaisted, Peg Betts, Brad Hall, Jeff Anderson and Ryan Smith.

- 12-001** It was moved by John Shepard and seconded by Doug Ute to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2011 meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

The financial status of LACA was presented by Jon Bowers. LACA ended June 30, 2011 with an unencumbered cash balance of \$1,729,312.12. Final June appropriations were also presented.

- 12-002** It was moved by Tom Forman and seconded by Steve Short to approve the following FY 11 June Appropriations. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers presented the August appropriation modifications, July financial reports and FY12 financial projections. LACA closed July with \$1,266,806 of unencumbered cash, approximately \$220,000 ahead of July, 2010.

- 12-003** It was moved by Tom Forman and seconded by Mark Neal to approve the following financial items: August Appropriation Modifications, July financial reports, and FY12 5-year Projections. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers presented the INFOhio iCoach Grant application and explained that the \$2,000 was intended to subsidize the expense of providing training on INFOhio electronic resources.

- 12-004** It was moved by Doug Ute and seconded by Forest Yocum to approve participation in the INFOhio iCoach Grant. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers discussed the legislative pressure to increase the use of shared services among ITC's. SEOVEC has contacted LACA to provide professional development opportunities to their schools. A contract to provide training and on-going electronic communications to SEOVEC schools was presented.

- 12-005** It was moved by Jay Gault and seconded by Tom Forman to approve Service Agreement to provide INFOhio professional development services to 21 SEOVEC Schools at a fee of \$100 per district for electronic communication and \$500 per day, plus expenses, for on-site user training; and \$100 per user per day for training at LACA. A vote of approval was taken.

Contracts with Windstream were presented for delivering connectivity to Par Excellence Academy and Eagle Wings Academy.

12-006 It was moved by Doug Ute and seconded by John Shepard to approve the Windstream contracts. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers presented the proposed FY13 ISP fees, which were the same as FY12. He explained that approving fees for FY13 were necessary to proceed with providing contracts for new schools.

12-007 It was moved by Tom Forman and seconded by Jeff Brown to approve the FY13 ISP fee schedule. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers presented three (3) non-member service contracts for LACA services: Coventry Local Schools, Eagle Wings Academy and Par Excellence.

12-008 It was moved by Forest Yocum and seconded by Mark Neal to approve the Coventry Local Schools contract for \$14,012, Eagle Wings Academy for \$14,554 and Par Excellence for \$14,554. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers presented the resolution to participate in the OME-RESA Cooperative Services Agreement. It was explained that LACA can purchase grade labels at a greatly reduced price through the cooperative, saving several thousand dollars per year.

12-009 It was moved by Doug Ute and seconded by Jeff Brown to approve the resolution to participate in the OME-RESA Cooperative Services Agreement. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers then presented the FY12 continuous improvement plan. It was explained that LACA uses input from user trainings, meetings and the customer service survey to draft the plan and that the plan is used as a point of reference in determining and approving staff professional development.

12-010 It was moved by Tom Forman and seconded by Steve Short to approve FY12 Continuous Improvement Plan. A vote of approval was taken.

Meeting Presentations/Discussions

Jon Bowers conducted the annual review of forms with the participants. A packet of information was distributed to each district. It was explained that copies of all LACA's districts policies were in the center of the binder. The Green documents on the right side were information about access that has been granted. The Yellow documents needed to be updates and that updated copies needed to be returned to LACA. It is imperative that LACA have a current copy of the FY12 Vendor Data Release Form.

Jon Bowers provided a status update on the VOIP implementation at Licking County ESC planned for August 24th. Districts interested in investigating VOIP services should contact Jon Bowers to begin a district evaluation in time for e-rate. LACA will be providing regular teacher in-service sessions over video and webcast this year. The sessions will focus on integrating INFOhio resources or free resources into curriculum. LACA was asked to provide graduate credit to teachers participating in the sessions. Michele Carlisle, a LACA staff, is an adjunct professor at a number of local universities, so this should not be an issue. More information will be distributed when it is ready.

LACA is researching the use of a “hosted applications” service which would significantly reduce the work of technology coordinators by hosting applications like Word, Excel and Internet Explorer. The reduction in work is accomplished by making changes and updates to the applications in a hosted environment, like a single copy of the software, then all instances of the application are updated. For example, if all schools computers are supposed to have a particular set of links to web resources and no others, that could be controlled through this service. Preliminary research has indicated that the current application, Citrix, will be too expensive to be considered a savings to schools. Research is being extended into open-source and Microsoft alternatives. The LACATech Committee will be kept abreast of developments.

In partnership with ECO-ESC, broadcast space at WOSU in the Fawcett Center has been leased for the next year, securing 4 studios to broadcast Mandarin Chinese classes. LACA has extended its network to OSU to enable high speed connectivity to our schools for video. We will be providing Mandarin I, II and III; French and American Sign Language. If districts would like to add an elective or have an open period for a teacher, they are encouraged to let Jon Bowers know so that a partner district can be arranged.

MCOECN/ODE Updates

MCOECN ITC Directors have been meeting regularly with MCOECN-appointed moderators to discuss the possibility of centralizing computer centers. Chad Carson is serving on the technical architecture subcommittee; Jeff Davis, the applications architecture; and Jon Bowers, the investment committee. The primary concern that keeps coming up is how much a centralized server environment would cost. Current estimates are about \$1.7m per site, with the idea that there would be 2 or 3 sites. There are still on-going costs associated with external data centers, so we have serious concerns if the long-term project will save ITC’s and schools money.

LACA was pleased that they received approximately \$16,000 of D3A2 funding for FY11. Spring testing data has been received and loaded. The number of new user account requests has increased drastically, indicating that there is value in the D3A2 product. While the future of the project continues to be questioned, it is a valuable product for schools and it would be costly to replicate the functionality. Michaelene Vincent (mvincent@laca.org) may be contacted to arrange D3A2 professional development.

The fall release of DASL will be the first release in which the databases of Progress Book and DASL will be fully integrated. Both applications will be accessing a single database known as the Framework. This will also be the first time that the name “DASL” will no longer be used. Sinc will continue to integrate with the Framework as it does for DASL. NEOMIN has selected DASL as their SIS, and a number of districts at LGCA have also made the choice, bringing the total to 19 ITC’s using DASL. When the conversions are complete, over one million students in Ohio will be in DASL!

All LACA districts met all their End of Year (period N) reporting requirements. Congratulations to all EMIS coordinators. We are currently processing Graduation (G) and Financial (H) reporting. ODE is still planning a parallel processing/collection for FY12 October reporting in both the current system and EMIS-r. LACA’s EMIS-r implementation

has been evaluated by EduStructures, ODE's consultant and was determined to be capable of supporting full implementation, so LACA is prepared to proceed with the EMIS-r project.

Unfinished Business

All services have been fully migrated to LACA for both Crooksville and East Muskingum. We are loading final EMIS reports and the migrations will be complete. LACA was not able to secure a volume purchase agreement with Alert Now, but agreements with TRZ Communications and One Call Now that will provide savings to member schools are being finalized. Final details will be presented to LACATech Members in September.

12-011 It was moved by John Shepard and seconded by Forest Yocum to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. A vote of approval was taken.

Reported by,

Jonathan Bowers
LACA Executive Director