Licking Area Computer Association

Minutes of the LACA Governing Board Meeting held December 11, 2014, convening at 9:08 am. Trevor Thomas, vice chairperson, brought the meeting to order. The following members answered present to the roll call: Joyce Malainy, Jill Johnson, Randy Miller (representing Jay Gault), Kevin Snyder (representing Steve Wigton), Nelson McCray, Darian Kovach (representing Philip Wagner), Jon Burkhart (representing David Knight), Bill Seder, Doug Ute, Chris Briggs, Bob Jennell, Ted Harrison (representing Bill Harbron), and Jon Bowers. Mark Neal arrived at 9:08.

15-014 It was moved by Doug Ute and seconded by nelson McCray to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

The December Appropriation Modifications, November financial reports and current FY15 financial projection were presented. Jon Bowers explained that financially, LACA is almost the same as last year at the end of November.

15-015 It was moved by Jill Johnson and seconded by Joyce Malainy to approve the FY15 financial items as presented. A vote of approval was taken.

Jon Bowers explained that LACA has been advised that the Governing Board should not set the ISP fees because the districts approve the LACA ISP contracts.

15-016 It was moved by Bob Jennell and seconded by Joyce Malainy approve the authorization of the LACA Executive Director to set the FY16 ISP rates.

Jon Bowers shared that two districts are implementing wireless to support this year's on-line testing.

15-017 It was moved by Jill Johnson and seconded by Bob Jennell to approve the purchase of wireless internet equipment and installation services from PowerNet Global in the amount of $107,865.00

Jon Bowers presented a projection of the FY16 budget. Health care increases and software price increases have been included, but new internet service contracts that are finalized during the e-rate process have not been included due to delays in the e-rate process.

Trish Baker presented INFOhio resources that support on-line test preparation. INFOhio provides resources that help students practice necessary technical skill for assessments and sample assessment questions. The new ODE-sponsored 4th grade reading resources Storia was also presented.

The new e-rate rules were discussed, primarily how Priority 1 and 2-eligible services have been changed to fit into Category 1 and 2 services. Jon Bowers shared projected Category 2 budgets and explained how schools would plan with those funds.

New SIS modules that will integrate with DASL/ProgressBook were also shared. Registration Gateway is an on-line student registration application that will be hosted at LACA. VirtualClassroom and DataMap are both new modules in the DASL/ProgressBook Suite that are available. Interested districts were advised to contact Jon Bowers.

Jon Bowers reported on recent updates regarding email archiving. Districts were encouraged to determine retention schedules for their email archives. LACA is likely able to accommodate retention schedule. Secondly, it is important for schools to list transient communication that is typically deleted immediately with no administrative or historical value on their retention schedule. While schools may delete email immediately, it is important to note on the retention schedule that it may be deleted immediately.

The CRDC reporting capabilities are being designed into DASL and should be available in early January. Additional financial data is also requested and LACA staff are preparing to support schools in that reporting.

The district need for network management and support services was presented by Doug Ute. With the growing role of technology in schools, there is an increasing need for network management expertise. Jon Bowers will poll the superintendents about their level of interest. The greatest challenge is keeping well-qualified technical staff and being financially competitive. Following the survey of the superintendents, Jon Bowers will discuss the proposal with the Personnel Committee.

Jon Bowers then discussed recent upgrades to the Alpha server, which support the fiscal software. He then discussed the research that LACA is doing to upgrade the LACA network to be more robust in situations when the state network is attacked. Recent attacks on the network have impacted instruction and LACA is determining the costs associated with installing a separate circuit completely independent of the state. It was also mentioned that LACA can provide two circuits to a district, also, to eliminate the sole dependence on single connection to LACA. Updates will be provided to the LACATech committee as well as the Governing Board.

Superintendents are also reminded that the user accounts of staff that leave their districts should be deleted, not deactivated. As a district accumulates deactivated accounts and staff move to new districts, those accounts become security risks.

Jon Bowers reported that LACA and East Central Ohio ESC have been awarded a federal grant, the RUS DLT grant, which will provide select districts with new videoconferencing equipment and LACA will receive a video bridge, similar in capacity to the state video helpdesk.

The remaining meeting for FY15 are January 8th, March 12th and May 14th.

15-018 It was moved by Nelson McCray and seconded by Bob Jennell to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am. A vote of approval was taken.