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Licking Area Computer Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee held January 6, 1999, at 8:30 a.m.

The following members answered present to the roll call: Granville represented by Rich Allen, Heath represented by Michele Berry, the JVS represented by Bonnie Stough, Lakewood represented by Beth Spieth, the LCESC represented by Dave Calloway, Licking Heights represented by Bruce Revennaugh, Newark represented by Wally Spence and Eileen McNally, North Fork represented by Larry Smith, Northridge represented by Ray Hetterscheidt, Brett Griffith representing the Fiscal Advisory Committee and Sandra Mercer representing LACA. Theresa Kucsma arrived at 9:20 a.m. and Tom Larkin from Maysville arrived at 9:30 a.m. Barry Haley from Licking Valley, and Scott Tate, Chad Carson, Joey Alexander, and Bobbie Warthman from LACA were also present for the meeting. Representatives from Johnstown, West Muskingum, and the Governing Board were not able to attend.

- 99-012 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Beth Spieth to approve the minutes of the November 10, 1998, meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

All LACATECH members were welcomed and introductions were made.

Sandy Paxton and Gloria Closser from the SchoolNet office were introduced and provided a demonstration of the new SchoolNet Internet CD for teachers. Internet CD Order forms were distributed.

Scott Tate presented information on Y2k software titled Elron Scan and Fix. LACA will check further into pricing for the schools for minimal workstations and will also check into state group purchasing through the MCOECN for similar software. Discussion followed on the impact of Y2k on other hardware, software and services used by the schools. Sandy Mercer distributed a spreadsheet LACA is planning to use to gather and document all service areas affected by Y2k. The SchoolNet office, the Ohio Department of Education and the MCOECN is planning to hold sessions around the state for schools on the Y2k issue. A 2-hour video has been distributed to each district office on the Department of Education's broadcast.

Other items included an update on the alpha conversion and the distribution of a draft e-mail to all users on the requirement for all users to change passwords every 90 days. LACA is working on a web based utility to change passwords versus the current need to telnet. It was requested that the e-mail not go out until the web based utility is complete. LACA announced that e-mail relay blocking was now being implemented with the alpha upgrade. Districts were asked to notify LACA if any other problems were created by the upgrade. LACA is aware of a problem with the LACANet modems periodically logging users out and they reported an update. Two new LACANet modems will be installed in the Johnstown district within the next couple of weeks and the new number was distributed in the 967 exchange. This is due to heavy usage within this exchange. An E-Rate update was presented and included the reminder of the Jan. 12, 1999, meeting, to prepare the 1999-2000 filing applications. A spreadsheet was distributed that included the total discounts reported by the LACA schools for the 1998 funding year. Districts were asked to prepare the data needed for the 1999-2000 filing and bring it to the Jan 12, meeting. Districts were also encouraged to begin thinking about services to apply for. Discussion followed on the IVDL grants and potential network growth/upgrades. LACA is still working on Virus protection licensing for the schools and will check into pricing on both McAfee VirusScan and Intel's

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LANDesk software. Discussion then following on security and Internet filtering software. It was reported that districts using Fortress... were very satisfied. LACA will check on current pricing for Bess N2H2 and WebSense Internet filtering software, and also look into setting up a demonstration for both products.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 1999, and Bartha Visual will provide a demonstration of their video display equipment. Ideas for additional presentations for the next meeting were requested and included a request by Heath City for ExcelSi or training. Discussion followed on other gradebook software products and included the request for LACA to look into supporting the interface to the student services software with Misty City's Grade Machine. An update on the state's RFP for a new client/server comprehensive student software package that may include gradebook modules as an additional enhancement followed.

The Governing Board update included LACA's plans to continue implementation of a professional development plan, FasTrack's interest in working with LACA to provide training locally to the schools, the announcement that training will be offered on Martin Luther King Day for 5th and 6th grade teachers on Inquire Ohio (a free educational resource for the low wealth districts in Ohio), LACA's offer of free training to teachers on UMI (a free social studies electronic resource paid for by the state for all teachers in Ohio) either at LACA and/or on-site, the announcement that LACA will be contacting each district Superintendent to set up Administrative E-Mail training, LACA's withdrawal of the recommendation for additional facility space, and the announcement that public communication subsidy payments have been made by LACA to the districts in the amount of \$1489.29 per building. Concerns were expressed on how to appropriately relay all information to teachers on available training and it was suggested that some information needs to be relayed through curriculum coordinators. Discussion followed on the "many hats" worn by the Technology Representatives and the need for additional support staff at the local level.

Unfinished business included the distribution of Reflection CD's for both Mac and Windows provided for by the LCESC to each member district representative. Unfinished business also included the need to upgrade district office, treasurer office, and building secretary work stations from serial connections to ethernet connections due to the future upgrades and requirements in the administrative software.

New business included the notice that the next regular LACATECH meeting is scheduled for February 3, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. at LACA.

99-013 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Rich Allen to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Training on 3Com hubs by Brian Edwards from Centratch, immediately followed the meeting.

Reported by,

Sandra Mercer  
LACA Director