LACATech Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2012

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:35am on January 11, 2012. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Kim VanWey and Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Michele Berry (Heath), Keith DeVore (LCESC), Darian Kovach (Licking Heights), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Granville, Maysville, Mount Vernon, Newark City, and Southwest Licking,were unable to attend.

Others attending were Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), Tess Wigginton (Newark Catholic), Matt Snyder (West Muskingum), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

12-5   It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Randy McFerren to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2011 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

eTech Ohio Update

There was no eTech Ohio update at this meeting.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward provided an ITSCO update. Please direct any questions about the ITSCO update to David at david@itsco.org or visit the ITSCO website at http://www.itsco.org/

Video Services

Michele Carlisle gave an update of video services via video. She discussed the elective course offerings over video and encouraged everyone to make sure this information reaches the correct people in the district. If anyone needs to be added to our video distance learning distribution list, please email mcarlisle@laca.org with the names and email addresses.

Polycom HDX Maintenance Renewals – Dave Stein said a few of the HDX systems are up for maintenance renewals. There is a significant reinstatement fee charged by Polycom if maintenance is allowed to lapse and needs to be re-added, so it is important to keep this current. A three-year renewal is the most cost-effective option. Dave will contact people that need to renew, but most still have over a year on existing contracts.

Midland Theatre – Jon Bowers reminded the group that LACA still has a link to the Midland Theatre, and can offer content out of there directly to our schools. Please contact LACA if you are interested in participating in a Midland Theatre offering.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates
Jon Bowers reported that the second half of the K-12 Network subsidy will be distributed in late March. The health of the state budget will allow for this subsidy to continue. The K-12 Network Committee has been asked by the Ohio Digital Learning Task Force to investigate the cost of upgrading the network to deliver gigabit speed internet services to all Ohio schools in preparation of the state mandate to conduct on-line assessments in 2015. The Committee is also researching the upgrade of ITC middle-mile circuits from 1 gb to 10 gb. Currently, the ring serving LACA is a 10 gb ring.

WAN Updates
ISP Contract Update – Districts were encouraged to monitor current bandwidth use and also consider plans for buying additional computers, especially wireless devices. Wireless implementations have a tremendous impact on your bandwidth use. In many cases, it is more economical to increase bandwidth now to keep it under e-rate than to wait until mid-year and increase it without e-rate. Mid-year and mid-contract increases are extremely costly. Districts are strongly encouraged to contact LACA if they have any plans for technology growth in the next year or two.

LACA Core Network Upgrade – LACA is upgrading our core network to be 10-gig capable in anticipation of future growth. The core switch hardware has already been added. We will be replacing our main internet firewall with a 10gig capable model as well, which will require network downtime to swap out. This will be scheduled at the least disruptive time possible. Also, each district needs to be moved to a new card in our core switch. This will require about 5 minutes of downtime per district while the cabling is moved. Joey Alexander will contact each of you and schedule a time to do this part of the upgrade.

Technical Services Update
E-Mail – LACA is in the process of moving end user mailboxes from Exchange 2007 to Exchange 2010. Three districts have been moved over so far. Outlook 2007 and 2010 clients will re-configure themselves after the move, but we have seen instances where they do not and require manual intervention to connect to the new 2010 server, so be aware of that. Also, there are new checkboxes in OWA for selecting messages, and some people are inadvertently selecting multiple messages and deleting things they shouldn't. There are also "conversation" views in OWA now, and it is possible to delete an entire conversation at once without meaning to. LACA would like to move everyone over to 2010 within the next couple of months (by end of February 2012) so please schedule a time that works best for you and you district with Chad Carson.

New VoIP Partner – LACA will be working with MCPC for future VoIP installations and implementations. We were able to significantly reduce costs by providing in-house support and using a different company for our backup/implementation resource.

Other Discussion
The LACA Data Security Policy was updated at the last Governing Board meeting with two minor changes.
1. Section II Item F – Wording on devices changed to more accurately reflect mobile devices in use today.
2. Section III - SQL backup retention time reduced from 14 to 7 days to reflect current practices

Unfinished Business
Managed Wi-Fi Service – LACA will be offering a managed wi-fi service in the near future. We are currently evaluating products/vendors to come up with a cost, estimated to be below $25 per AP per month. This service is eRate eligible as well. There was discussion on this, as some members have heard from other entities that wireless is not eRate eligible. LACA will send our evaluation process and conclusions to the group.

Virtual Applications – Due to the high cost and lack of interest in this area, LACA is terminating work on this project for now. If a need arises in the future, we will revisit investigation into this technology area.

New Business

12-6   Chris Cashdollar can no longer fulfill the role of Governing Board representative due to a career change, so an election for a new Governing Board representative was held.   It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to open the floor for nominations. Harold Gottke nominated Tim Owen. No further nominations were

12-7   offered. It was moved by Chris Cashdollar and seconded by Harold Gottke to close the floor for nominations and elect Tim Owen as Governing Board representative effective January 16, 2012. Chris Cashdollar will be the representative at the next Governing Board meeting on January 12, 2012.

Topic-Based Meetings – The group would like to see a vendor demonstrations of the following three applications, preferably on the same day, and scheduled during the February 1, 2012 topic based meeting or as close to that date as possible: Google Docs, Office 365, and Gagglenet. Chad Carson will work to schedule this training.   The group would also like to see a presentation by Apple on K-12 classroom management of iPads. Chad will contact Apple and attempt to schedule this type of training as well. C-TEC is holding an Apple Event on February 29, 2012, where teachers showcase how they use Apple products in the classroom. Gerry Cannon will send information to LACA for distribution to the group.

12-8   It was moved by Chris Cashdollar and seconded by Michele Berry to adjourn the meeting at 9:55am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA