LACATech Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2013

NOTE: The meeting started informally at 8:37am. A quorum was not present at the time the meeting started. After some updates, enough members had arrived to create a quorum, and the meeting was called to order.

Introduction of New Members
Angie McCutcheon from Newark City Schools was introduced to the group.

ITSCO Update
David Hayward provided an ITSCO update over video. 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 provided a video services update via video. Letters of intent for Mandarin Chinese classes have gone out to our contacts, with a non-to-exceed cost, based on whether we receive funding or not. Everyone should have received the current course offerings for next year (sent to Video Leads, Building Principals, and Superintendents). AP waiver at iLearnOhio is still available, and should be fully funded for next school year. LACA can offer those as interactive face-to-face with an instructor, vs. taking a computer based AP class. It was recommended that any technology coordinators that are not involved in planning for PARRC, get involved. Technology is a very important piece of making this happen. It was also recommended that maintenance coverage be maintained on the Polycom systems. A single camera failure is more expensive than 3 years of coverage, and due to the equipment being so critical to delivery of the course, it cannot be offline for days on end.

eTech Ohio Update
Mike Edwards from eTech Ohio presented the eTech Ohio update. Please direct any questions about the update to Mike at mike.d.edwards@etech.ohio.gov or visit the eTech Ohio website at http://www.etech.ohio.gov.

Roll Call
The LACATech meeting was called to order at 9:20am on March 6, 2012. The following members were present for the roll call: Michelle Snow (C-TEC), Rob Sexton (Granville), Michele Berry (Heath), Mark McGee (Lancaster), Keith DeVore (LCESC), Eric Smith (Maysville), Angie McCutcheon (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley) and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Crooksville, East Muskingum, Licking Heights, Northridge, Southwest Licking, Mount Vernon, West Muskingum, and Lakewood were unable to attend.

Others attending were Rocky Ringhiser (C-TEC), Jamison Ables (Newark City), Jeremy Wise (Foxfire), Joey Alexander (LACA), Robert Rittenhouse (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
13-5   It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Rob Sexton to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2012 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates
There were mistakes with the funding distribution. Some districts received incorrect amounts (full funding instead of half, or even double funding that had to be returned). The 2nd half should be distributed in March or April 2013. It is believed that the K12 network funding will continue for next year. Nothing has occurred that would make us think it would NOT. There is also money in the state budget to pay for 10GB circuits to each ITC when the contracts for the 1GB circuits expire. LACA is working with Time Warner in anticipation of this while construction is happening on LACA's new facility.

WAN Updates
Everyone was reminded of the impending funding deadline of March 14th and encouraged not to wait until the last minute to file their 471 forms. It was also pointed out that this year's contracts include the Item 21, which also needs to be submitted and certified by March 14th. It is important to pay attention to the allowable contract dates and make sure that the contracts were approved on or after the allowable contract date.

Technical Services Update
Internet Filtering Discussion – LACA network team is still researching possible alternatives to the M86 content filtering system. OpenDNS offering proved to be too costly. The current front-runner is iBoss, which is priced very competitively to M86 and has a huge range of features that we do not currently have with M86. LACA is going to set up a demo of iBoss and hopefully some other systems on April 3, 2013 (our next LACATech Topic-Based Meeting). Be aware that this could shift by a few days if we need to accommodate the vendor schedules.
Voice over IP Update – Par Excellence has been added to LACA's phone system since the last meeting. LACA also offers TEC (The Education Connection), which is 50% erate eligible as an alternative to Cisco Unity voicemail. TEC does much more than just voicemail, providing a teacher/parent calling system, online interface to teacher/parent voicemails, and an emergency notification system. Contact Robert Rittenhouse at LACA (rrittenhouse@laca.org) for more information about LACA voice offerings.
Anti-Virus Updates – It has been brought to our attention recently that Avast Antivirus (www.avast.com) is now offering their entire suite of products free to education, including management console. LACA has set up a server and is evaluating the product. This would be a huge cost savings moving forward if the product is up to standards. Nothing would happen immediately as we have just switched to eSet and are in a contract. We will keep you up to date on this project as it progresses.

Old Business
LACA Facility Move – The date has been set for LACA's move. The computer room will be shut down on Monday, July 22, starting at 5:00pm, and normal operations should resume by the end of the day on Thursday, July 25.

Mobile Device Management – LACA has been looking at MDM products, but we are not sure of the level of interest in having LACA do a group purchase of an MDM product maybe a year out in the future (similar to our blanket anti-virus offering). Current products in use among the members include mostly Casper, with others using Meraki and Stoneware as well. Packetfence was also mentioned as a possible tool.

Fiddlehead – Granville's evaluation of the Fiddlehead software did not go well. Rob updated the group on his experience, and based upon this research, there is no interest from the group in pursuing a group purchase with CDI.

LACA Website - Chad Carson asked the group to please relay any feedback on the new website to network@laca.org (suggestions for improvement, mistakes, broken links, etc). Now that the website has been converted to a .NET application, development of more sophisticated features is now possible.

PARRC Assessments – Lots of information was released yesterday regarding PARRC, but not in time to have it fully reviewed before this meeting. Jon will be sending more information out about PARRC in the near future. There is a planning tool that can help you estimate how long it will take to administer the testing to your current students with the current technology you have.

New Business

Hiring Network Coordinator – LACA is adding to our technical staff. A job has been posted for Network Coordinator. We hope to have this position hired and in place March/April 2013. If you know anyone qualified that is looking, please have them email a resume to resume@laca.org.

Digital Curriculum and Testing Software – Some districts are already using MAP testing software from Northwest Evaluation Association (www.nwea.org) , and LACA is looking at a group purchase of this software in the future depending on the level of interest. If your district is looking at purchasing this software, please let LACA know.

Document Imaging/Warehousing – LACA is partnering with MEC (ITC in Columbus) to offer Onbase imaging and warehousing to two of our districts. We also work with MicroImage to do the physical scanning, and MEC provides the indexing and storage of the electronic documents after the scanning is complete. If you are interested in this service please let LACA know.

MCOECN/CDWG Device Offering – A flyer was distributed regarding an upcoming offering of Lenovo laptops and devices through CDWG partnering with the MCOECN. Pricing for this is not yet set in stone.

FY13 LACATech Schedule - Below are the scheduled dates for the upcoming FY13 LACATech meetings.

> <u>Regular Meeting Dates</u>
> May 8, 2013   **PLEASE NOTE: This meeting date was changed from May 1 to May 8. Update your calendars.**

> <u>Topic-Based Meetings</u>
> April 3, 2013 - Planning on using this date for Internet Filtering demos.
> June 5, 2013

LACA will take email requests into consideration for the June 5, 2013 Topic-Based meeting between now and the meeting date. Please send any suggestions to network@laca.org.

13-6   It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Michele Berry to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am.

Rob Sexton from Granville gave a 30 minute presentation of the Stoneware MDM software in use at Granville immediately following the meeting.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA