

tech-19980806-min
Licking Area Computer Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee held August 6, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

The following members answered present to the roll call: Granville represented by Rich Allen, Johnstown represented by Laura Vanverdark, Newark represented by Eileen McNally and Wally Spence, North Fork represented by Larry Smith, Northridge represented by Ray Hetterscheidt, Nelson McCray representing the LACA Governing Board, the LCESC represented by Dave Calloway, the JVS represented by Jesse Lyon, and Sandra Mercer representing LACA. Trish Baker, Scott Tate, and Joey Alexander were also present for the meeting. Representatives from Heath, Lakewood, Licking Heights, Maysville, Southwest Licking, West Muskingum and the Fiscal Advisory committee were not able to attend.

- 99-001 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Dave Calloway to approve the minutes of the June 3, 1998, meeting. A vote of approval was taken. Copies of the minutes were distributed to the group and it was announced that all minutes and correspondence for the LACATECH committee are distributed through the LACATECH listserv.

All new LACATECH members were welcomed and introductions were made.

The Governing Board update included an update on LACA's move planned for Sept 16, beginning around 4:00 p.m. and ending no later than Monday, Sept 21. A tour of LACA's current and future offices are available via LACA's web site at www.laca.org. The E-rate update included the distribution of information on additional delays and possible amendments to suspend the program. Other information such as mandates for schools to have Internet content filtering in place to receive funding and possibilities to distribute the funds to the states in the form of block grants was presented. Concern on the man hours spent on filing for e-rate funds was discussed but it was also presented that due to the work and awareness/intent for schools to get connected, every school building in the entire LACA consortium will be connected at a minimum of a 56k by fall 1998. The LACA Director presented an overview of LACA's Governance and Advisory committees and stated that if LACATECH representatives changed from last year, the Superintendent will need to send a letter of authorization for the individual to represent the district. This information will also be presented at the upcoming Governing Board scheduled for August 13, 1998. LACATECH meetings are currently held the first Wednesday of every month. Every other month the meeting concentrates on Media/Library services and training.

The Library service update included a brief overview of the services and costs and an announcement that LACA plans to move forward with DRA Web2 (web-based interface for the Multilis OPAC). LACA is currently evaluating the INFOhio/Multilis costs. The additional license cost per student will run about \$1.24 each for DRA Web2. There are currently no plans for increasing costs but previous discussions of reducing elementary yearly fees will have to be reviewed once final DRA Web2 costs are announced. The Library Services update also included the distribution of material on upcoming technology conference and LACA's Teacher web page links relating to proficiency and subject area that Trish Baker has been working on. Discussion followed on the number of schools participating in Multilis Library automation, MediaNet and LSTA grants.

Internet/network issues included the distribution of information on Intel's LANDesk Virus Protection software. LACA is currently looking into site licensing and the committee commented on its approval for

LACA to pursue options on this software solution. The update also included the distribution of information N2H2's Bess CacheExpress (proxy server caching system). Discussion also continued on the topic of Internet content filtering. Sandra Mercer stated that LACA needs for each district to send to LACA a copy of the district's Internet Acceptable Use policy and resolution reflecting the district Board's approval due to a recent audit request. Eileen McNally stated that Newark's policy had not changed but their procedure did and they now provide Internet access to all students unless the parent files for the student to not be granted the access. A copy of LACA's Web server policy was distributed for review. After discussion, Nelson McCray moved the policy be approved. Dave Calloway seconded the motion. A vote of approval was taken. Sandra Mercer will present the policy to the Governing Board for final approval and will report back to the LACATECH listserv for need to complete the District/Building WebMaster forms. Discussion of LACA's DNS changing from LACA.OHIO.GOV to LACA.ORG was continued from last meeting. Samples of e-mails to go out to all users were distributed. After further discussion, it was moved by Rich Allen and seconded by Wally Spence to approve the changeover date effective August 17, 1998, pending no immediate problems to the general user base. A vote of approval was taken. CA will change the brief e-mail to include an announcement that "Your e-mail address is changing" in place of "Very Important message" and the date change and distribute to all users of the LACA system as soon as possible. Discussion of SchoolNet's Interactive Video Distance Learning (IDVL) grants and video streaming possibilities followed. LACA announced it's current plans to purchase appropriate hardware and software licensing to test video streaming capabilities over LACA's current network to the school buildings. Newark stated that they had a video on LACANet that could be used as a test for the encoding process to present a demonstration at a future LACATECH committee meeting. Future capabilities for Distance Learning and video streaming were discussed. The JVS is planning to hold a meeting on August 17, 1998, at 3:00 p.m. to determine interest in and discuss future capabilities of distance learning. All LACATECH members were invited to attend. LACA's Technical LAN support contracts (hourly and yearly) were presented. Districts interested in contracting for these services were encouraged to notify LACA and/or get contracts in as soon as possible. Each district was also asked to send to LACA, a phone number and local contact name for LACA to refer users to, if the user experienced local network/connectivity problems and the district decided to not contract with LACA for these services. LACA's WAN services were also discussed and district network diagrams were distributed for clarification. Sandra Mercer presented information on statewide proposals currently being written for Technology Maintenance for the schools. There is some discussion that future funding may be available from the state for at least the hardware repair portion. Discussion on the wide range of Technology Maintenance needs beyond just hardware repair followed. Current funding for Data Communication Subsidy for the schools (wide area connections and on-going support costs for such connections to instructional buildings) was also presented. Current year funding proposals project that each school building should receive about \$1500. LACA receives these funds from the state and directly flows them to the school districts to use for hardware upgrades, on-going data line costs and LACA's WAN support services.

Student accounts were discussed. It was approved at the last LACATECH meeting that LACA disuser all student accounts each year on June 15, 1998. It was agreed upon by all that each district should decide on their future use of student accounts. Each LACATECH rep is to notify LACA if any and/or all of the student accounts for the district are to be re-activated.

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Due to the recent change in the date for the LACATECH meeting, the Bartha Visual representative was not able to attend. LACA will notify the representative and try to schedule a presentation at the next regular meeting.

Unfinished business included the distribution of LACATECH goals and the need to review/update the document. LACA will update the representative list for the next meeting and include the individual names of the district representatives in the agenda roll call.

New business included the agreement to hold the next general LACATECH meeting on November 4, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. There will be no September meeting due to the LACA move and the Oct. 7 meeting will be geared toward the Media/Library services and Multilis User's group. LACATECH representatives were invited to attend the Oct. 7, meeting/training session.

99-004 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Ray Hetterscheidt to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Reported by,

Sandra Mercer
LACA Director