

tech-19990407-min
LICKING AREA COMPUTER ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee held April 7, 1999, convening at 8:30 AM.

The following members answered present to the roll call: Heath represented by Michele Berry, Johnstown represented by Carol VanDeest, Lakewood represented by Beth Spieth, Licking Heights represented by Bruce Revenaugh, Newark represented by Wally Spence and Eileen McNally, Northridge represented by Ray Hettterscheidt, Southwest Licking represented by Theresa Kucsma, Tri-Valley represented by Randy McFerren, and Sandra Mercer representing LACA. Jesse Lyon from the JVS arrived at 9:00 a.m., Tom Larkin from Maysville arrived at 8:50 a.m., and Larry Smith from North Fork arrived at 9:00 a.m..

The following representatives were unable to attend: Rich Allen and Chuck Dilbone from Granville, Dave Calloway from LCESC, Vicki Clark from West Muskingum, Nelson McCray representing the Governing Board, and Brett Griffith, the fiscal representative.

Barry Haley from Licking Valley, Chad Carson, Joey Alexander, Scott Tate, and Bobbie Warthman from LACA were also present for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- 99-016 It was moved by Beth Spieth and seconded by Carol VanDeest to approve the minutes of the February 3, 1999 meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

Internet Content Filtering

At the February meeting representatives requested LACA research two content filtering products; N2H2 and WebSENSE, and report back with pricing information on individual pricing and DASite pricing. Sandy reported to the committee that through the research it was decided it was more cost effective to go with the WebSENSE product if the filtering was to be done at the DASite level. An estimated cost of \$500 per building per year would cover the cost of LACA installing the filter. Districts still have the option of installing their own filtering software at a local level. N2H2 pricing for individual District purchase is \$3,000 for the N2H2 server then a cost of \$1.00 per station per month.

Chad Carson explained to representatives the set-up of how the filter would work once installed. Districts may have the option of either going through the filter or not going through it. Sandy stated that all Districts interested in using the filter would have to come to a joint decision on what categories would be blocked. It was the opinion of interested parties that this would not pose a problem. Sandy asked for a show of hands for those Districts that would be interested in participating in filtering if done through LACA with the WebSENSE product. The following Districts showed interest in participating; Tri-Valley, Johnstown, Newark, Heath, Lakewood, Southwest Licking, Maysville, North Fork, JVS.

- 99-017 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Tom Larkin for LACA to pursue internet content filtering via WebSENSE for all schools interested, with finalized pricing to be mailed to LACATECH. District representatives will then pursue with their local boards. A vote of approval was taken.

LACANet

Sandy discussed with the committee the technical support, liability issues, cost and original purpose concerning LACA continuing to provide LACANet. The majority of representatives stated they felt it was no longer LACA's responsibility to serve as an ISP for educational home use. Sandy informed those present that and ISP, Clover.net, had been in contact with LACA on educational pricing of \$13.50 per month, if LACA would advertise their service. There was no interest in this offer from the group.

- 99-018 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Beth Spieth that LACA terminate LACANet beginning with the 1999-2000 school year. A roll call was taken to approve the motion: Lakewood - yes, Heath - yes, Licking Heights - yes, JVS - yes, Maysville - yes, Newark - yes, North Fork - yes, Northridge - yes, Southwest Licking - yes, Tri-Valley - yes, Johnstown - no. Motion carried.

WEB Server Expansion

Chad Carson explained two new features on the LACA web server that districts may wish to take advantage of. First, a district may apply for their own domain for free under the K12.OH.US domain. The web server can then be configured to run a "virtual server" that will give the appearance that the district has their own dedicated machine housing their web pages.

Second, if a district wishes to use Microsoft Frontpage 98 and take advantage of the benefits it offers, a "Frontpage Web" can be configured for that district. This requires the district to be configured with a "virtual server" as described in the previous paragraph. Any district interested in either of these services can contact Chad Carson to get them set up.

E-Rate recap - 1999-2000 filing

471 Certification

Sandy distributed spreadsheets outlining the services and equipment which were included on the 471. Districts were asked to review the spreadsheets and send the 471 certification signed by the Superintendent back to LACA as soon as possible.

School Net Telecommunity

Monies are still available through the SchoolNet Telecommunity grants. Sandy questioned if there were any districts interested in working together as a consortium to apply for one of the grants. Since there was interest Sandy stated she would contact Sandy Paxton with SchoolNet about the possibility of setting up a meeting to discuss it in more detail.

Future Training

Sandy questioned the representatives on what training they would like to see in the future. It was decided that training was needed on how to manage the switches which will be installed in the Districts. Sandy will work with DPS/CISCO to get this training scheduled.

Software Licensing

Virus Protection

Efforts are still being made by LACA to coordinate group purchasing for McAfee Total Virus Defense Suite.

Workstation Cloning

Scott discussed with the committee a new product called ImageCast. This software allows a user to take a workstation that is completely configured and set up and make a copy/image and then push that image out to other workstations. This would be extremely beneficial to districts who have training or student labs. Discussion continued on other products being used throughout the districts.

Software Inventory

Barry Haley requested information from others who were using some sort of Software Inventory software. Eileen stated Newark was currently looking at a product called TrackIt. Scott stated that WRQ's Express 2000 also has the capability of inventorying equipment and software and providing reports.

INFOsource

Discussion took place on the training tutorial software available free to all school districts. LACA received new titles that could be very beneficial for districts. Handouts were distributed listing all available titles. Districts were reminded that CD's were distributed March 1998 to District Media Coordinators that contained most titles. CD's are expected to be distributed again late summer that will include not only the old titles, but also the new.

Curriculum Software/Delivery

Sandy informed representatives she has been receiving calls from a variety of curriculum software vendors. Some members felt it was not LACA's duty to provide curriculum software support to districts. Sandy stressed she was unsure what LACA's duty should be in this area but strongly felt that efforts should be made by all involved to work together. Theresa Kucsma discussed potential pilot projects using CIP and STW grants that would use data analysis tools (like Objx, ASK) to help districts make informed decisions in the area of curriculum support software.

Updates

Y2K

LACA held a meeting in March and invited all member districts and non-pubs to promote awareness of the Y2K problem. Copies of a recent survey sent from the United States Department of Education were distributed. Sandy recommended every District take the time to fill out and return the survey. The deadline is April 16th.

INFOhio

LSTA Grant deadline is May 3rd.

Districts were asked to promote the use of the electronic resource, Encyclopedia Britannica. The State is gathering statistical data to use as leverage with legislators for future funding to provide more free services to schools.

WEB2 Requirements - Netscape or Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher.

Cisco Academy

Districts have not shown much interest in participating. Sandy still plans on continuing to track the progress of the project and pursue interest in participation.

Unfinished Business

Next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 1999.

Adjournment

99-019 It was moved by Eileen McNally and seconded by Larry Smith to adjourn the meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

Reported by,

Sandra Mercer
LACA Director