



LACATech Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2003

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:40am on March 5, 2003. The following members were present:

Dave Calloway (LCESC), Denny Souder (Granville), Jesse Lyon (LCJVS), Beth Spieth (Lakewood), Michelle Berry (Heath), Lesa McGarity (Licking Heights), Phillip Theobald (Tri-Valley), Kevin Snyder (West Muskingum), Shawn Wharton (Johnstown), Carol VanDeest (Schoolnet), and Sandra Mercer (LACA). Others attending included Chad Carson (LACA), Eric Thompson (LACA), Lonny Claypool (LACA), Helen Morris (LACA) and Jill Merry (St. Francis).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

03-015 It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Beth Spieth to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2003 meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Helen Morris, the new Administrative Assistant at LACA, was introduced to the group.

SchoolNet Update

Carol VanDeest gave information on Ohio SchoolNet's Technology Planning Tool (TPT). The February 2 release of TPT 2.0 greatly enhances planning by actively engaging a variety of decision makers across the district and aligns technology goals and strategies with the district's CCIP/CIP goals and strategies. For more information on Ohio SchoolNet's Technology Planning tool visit <http://www.osn.state.oh.us/go/tpt>.

The February SchoolNet meeting was held at Bake & Brew in Newark with good attendance. Meetings are held at area restaurants from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Spring Technology Training (STTA) suggestions offered at the meeting:

- Tech Management Training
- Blue Ocean Track It! (help desk training)
- Backup & Recovery for MS-Windows 2000 server
- ZEN Works (Joey Alexander is currently attending training and might be a resource to help train others)

Please fill out the STTA Survey to indicate what types of training you would like offered.

Ohio Educational Technology Support & Management Grant (Tech Up)

Sandy Mercer (LACA) discussed the Tech Up LACA Service Agreement.

If the grant is successful, LACA will begin the service implementation for the districts awarded the grant. The Grant period ends August 2003. LACA has been working on the Grant proposal.

03-016 An e-mail motion was made prior to the LACATech meeting, for the LACA Network Pool to purchase balance of Track It! Software pending outcome of Ohio SchoolNet's Technology Management and Support Grant, not to exceed \$4000.00. A vote of approval was taken.

Carol VanDeest is seeking Grant readers, if interested, please contact Carol at vandeest@osn.state.oh.us The Grants are located online.

03-017

E-Rate Update

A motion to cancel E-rate 2002 funding for student E-mail with Gaggenet Inc Service provider was moved by Dave Calloway and seconded by Denny Souder. A vote of approval was taken.

Student E-mail accounts funding has been approved and will be implemented at the beginning of 2003-2004 school year. Gaggenet has offered to help set-up accounts for free. To facilitate, technical manager's contact information would be sent to Gaggenet.

A study is being conducted to provide fiber connectivity from the state to each DA-Site. LACA will stay abreast of this study and present information to the group as we find it out. Sandy shared information on the Alltel LACA Ethernet Transport LAN Services proposal. The proposal included 100 Mb capabilities for 17 nodes. After some discussion, it was suggested that the study be expanded to include alternative bandwidth providers including wireless, and alternative funding sources. The study will be based upon current and projected bandwidth usage.

There was no motion to recommend Alltel's fiber proposal to the LACA Governing Board.

The committee recommended that LACA not change to ISP, but remain as E-rate consortium status.

WAN Updates

A summary of the MRK Security Audit was presented.

An update on the status of the SPAM filtering project was presented. Statistics of how many messages per day are being blocked were shared. Other DA-Sites are connected into the database being created by LACA to stop spam for their member districts as well. SPAMHAUS.org has been added as a free service to the SPAM filter. Chad asked that tech managers include Ethernet headers and gave information on how obtain these headers from the SPAM messages.

An update on the Network Restructure Project was presented. Currently, only internal changes to LACA's network are being performed. Future plans are to move servers providing services to LACA end users into a DMZ (De-Miliarized Zone), which is a special interface on the firewall that will firewall LACA's servers from the districts, as well as the public Internet. The Alpha Server will be down March 13, 2003 from 4:00 PM to Midnight.

Chad asked for suggestions of ports that should be blocked for outbound security. More discussion will be done at the next meeting.

The Centralized E-mail Naming Scheme was discussed. Benefits are as follows:

- More district oriented
- Eliminates redundant accounts
- Ability to create aliases
- More secure

Disadvantages areas follows:

- Confusion for users
- Harder to maintain until automated
- Potential for increased SPAM

Chad requests member feedback.

New additions to the LACA web site:

- Bandwidth Monitoring
- Change Password
- Search SPAN logs
- TCP/IP Settings
- Policies, Forms & Meeting Minutes
- Link to the SchoolNet Update

Other Discussion

IVDL Updates

03-018 Motion to approve IP/ISDN gateway purchase from network pool not to exceed \$10,000 one time cost and \$450.00 per month ongoing cost. Additional ISDN per-minute charges would be billed to the individual districts initiating the calls. This motion was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Shawn Wharton. A vote of approval was taken.

K-12 Classroom Data Project

The ProgressBook Parent Module is in place and was demonstrated. If interested in being a pilot building for ProgressBook, contact Andy Kemmer.

Sandy Mercer requested each Tech manager to identify Excelsior users for next school year. Current Excelsior contracts were distributed.

A handout describing the INFOhio transition to Unicorn update was given by Bobbie Warthman. Library staff workstations will need updated according to the equipment specifications. LACA will perform system setup, software installation and data conversion for libraries. The timeline for the conversion has not been set and will be based upon available funding in the budget.

Unfinished Business

It was suggested that eLearning Solutions vendor demonstrations be scheduled for April – May timeframe for Blackboard and WebCT.

Persona and Reflection web services are not currently working. A notice will be sent out by LACA on performance status.

New Business

The next LACATech meeting date will be May 1, 2003, at 8:30am.

03-019 It was moved by Denny Souder and seconded by Jesse Lyon to adjourn the meeting at 10:30am. A vote of approval was taken.