



LACATech Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2010

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:40am on September 8, 2010. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (CTEC), Tim Owen (Lakewood), Keith DeVore (LCESC), Sondra Wilson (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Chip Zolman (Mt. Vernon), and Chad Carson (LACA). Michele Berry (Heath) arrived at 8:45am, Eric Smith (Maysville) arrived at 8:50am, Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley) arrived at 9:00am.

Representatives from Licking Heights, Southwest Licking, and Granville were unable to attend.

Others attending were Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Jill Merry (St. Francis), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), David Diebel (Granville Christian), Jamison Ables (Newark City), Dave Stein (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

11-01 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Tim Owen to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

eTech Ohio Update

Quentin Briggs provided an eTech Ohio update via Skype video conference. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Quentin at Quentin.Briggs@etech.ohio.gov or visit the eTech Ohio website at <http://www.etch.ohio.gov/>.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward gave 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/>

Introduction of New Staff

Robert Rittenhouse, Network Coordinator at LACA, was hired over the summer and was introduced to the group.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

LACA will be bumping our outbound Internet by an additional 20mb up to 130mb based on forecasted usage. K-12 subsidy funding is estimated to stay at \$2,000 per building with distributions like last year – half in the fall and half in spring. Overall funding is being cut, but schools won't directly see reductions. The cuts will be for ITC secondary internet funding, which LACA does not do.

Video Services

FLAP Grant - FLAP Grant is in year 2 of 3 years and we intend to apply for an extension. Districts currently in FLAP grant are: Tri-Valley, West Muskingum, Heath, Southwest Licking and Northridge. SIVDL Grant is also delivering courses to Newark, Mount Vernon and Newark Digital Academy. The number of daily classes has increased from 7 per day to 35 per day. LACA will be installing a 2nd RSS IP video recorder to be able to record this volume of classes.

LACA PD Offering - LACA has been asked to provide teacher PD activities in which an iPad is included in the cost of the PD. The teacher or school staff gets to keep the iPad at the end of the training. We plan to offer training for 10 individuals as a pilot. When speaking with the Governing Board, it was clear that the iPad becomes property of the district, not the individual (if the district pays). We will send the serial number to the district board office as part of the process. No definite date has yet been set for this training.

LACA Content Offerings - We held our LACA video lead teacher kick off earlier this week. Teachers learned about video content offerings from LACA which include: Veteran's Day, Rosa Parks and Constitution Day. We will be offering 2 or 3 more content offerings this year. These are free to your schools, so please encourage your teachers to request them.

VIPER replaces DLOTS– Viper is the new web-based application that will replace DLOTS for requesting video classes. Please let us know if you would like an account on Viper...it ties to your existing email/active directory account.

WAN Updates

Fees on ISP contracts are anticipated to be the same as last year – reduced from previous year's contracts. We are considering alternative connectivity providers as we may be able to accomplish lower rates by moving away from Time Warner. Windstream has an Ethernet solution that we are looking into.

VoIP - if you are interested in implementing VOIP, it is important that the process begin now or very soon. One key element is to have VOIP written into your technology plan. LACA has a new VoIP service in place that we are using in-house as well as hosting Tri-Valley's phone system. Time Warner Equipment Updates – All new Time Warner contract renewals that occurred over the summer moved to a state-term contract, and the terms of that required the equipment to change from a Foundry switch to and Adva switch. These changes have all been done, with the exception of Southwest Licking, where we are waiting on some design changes.

Technical Services Update

Internet Content Filtering – The 8e6 Reporting Appliance is on order. We hope to have this in place by the end of the month so we can use the October 6 Topic Based meeting date to do training on the reporting device.

E-Mail – LACA is moving forward with a local Mimosa archiving installation for our staff. We are still working on this. Training is being conducted for the ITCs on setup/management of this software in early October. It was asked if there would be a cost involved, and there would be. We will have to determine a per-mailbox cost based on the licensing and hardware cost. This will be shared with everyone when the system is ready for use.

LAN Switch Maintenance – Every year LACA purchases Smartnet maintenance on our Cisco equipment. Any district who wants to put their own equipment under Smartnet can do so as part of our annual renewal. Please let Dave Stein know if you have any Cisco equipment you want added to this renewal.

VoIP Service – This is now available through LACA partnering with Dataserv for the support and design. Please contact Robert Rittenhouse with any questions about the service.

Microsoft IT Academy – Just a reminder that we have the ability to create three accounts per district to access online classes for all of Microsoft's products. If you have not already gotten a login from LACA for this, please send a message to network@laca.org to request the account and classes.

LACA Proxy Server Update – LACA has been allowing people to connect through a shared Squid proxy server for miscellaneous use, however this has been used more and more for larger projects. We will likely be converting this to a more formalized service under our existing hosted server structure, and ask that heavy users of the proxy purchase a dedicated proxy server. A dedicated proxy server allows you to customize your internet filtering to fit your district policy. The shared proxy is set to LACATech filtering level, and cannot be changed on a per-customer basis.

Virus Protection – The group was queried if they were happy with Symantec, or if they wanted LACA to evaluate and pursue alternatives to Symantec. There have been recent incidents where

Symantec has been compromised by a virus, and other software was used to fix the issues. BitDefender and Eset Nod32 are two candidates that we are researching. Another possible company is ThirtySeven4. We are also looking for software that takes a smaller memory footprint than Symantec. The group agreed we should research and demo other software as long as it is easily deployed in a school setting through a centralized console. We will move forward with this. Let Joey know if you are willing to demo any of this software to assist us with research.

Other Discussion

Group Purchasing Committee - Safari Montage – Worked with Lorain County ESC to work out the bugs of connecting to Safari Montage across ITCs, and this is now ready to go for anyone interested in using this software.

LACA also has an agreement with Pay4It and are working on an agreement with EZPay. We will be looking on the vendors that schools use for various services to determine if there is the possibility of developing more group purchasing agreements.

Unfinished Business

AUP Reacceptance - The LACA AUP re-acceptance needs to be pushed forward a month as the new version of LAMA is not yet ready. Development over the summer took much longer than anticipated. Districts would like to go ahead and do their own local re-acceptance now, and we will do the LACA one starting October 1 and run it through November 15.

Public Records Retention - Jon has arranged a presentation on eDiscovery by Jim Burnes of Bricker and Eckler. It will immediately follow the October Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting on October 21, 2010.

One-to-One Initiative – Subcommittee Update – Discussion from the first meeting included discussion about putting the right policies in place, conducting visits to some other districts in the state doing one-to-one already. Also, please keep LACA involved for input regarding any decisions that are made for a one-to-one project.

New Business

- 11-02 Election of LACATech Chairperson – Due to the untimely passing of Denny Souder, we are in need of a new chairperson for the LACATech Committee. It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Tim Owen to open the floor for nominations. Sondra Wilson nominated Tim Owen.
- 11-03 It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to close the floor for nominations. Tim Owen was elected LACATech Chairperson by a unanimous vote of approval.

The schedule for FY11 LACATech meetings is as follows:

- November 3, 2010
- January 12, 2011
- March 2, 2011
- May 4, 2011

The LACA Topic Based meetings are scheduled for:

- October 6, 2010
- December 1, 2010
- February 2, 2011
- April 6, 2010

Some potential topics were the new 8e6 Reporting Appliance, Voice over IP overview by Dataserv, Moodle/Sharepoint, and protecting your network from outside devices brought into the schools.

Tim Owen is looking at the possibilities of allowing employees to bring in their own personal equipment for use within the school building. Tim would like to know if any other districts currently do this and can he contact you about the policies. Mount Vernon, Excel Academy, and Northridge currently do this. Larry Smith added that it is important to make sure these devices are protected so they do not disrupt or infect your own district or other internal LACA customers as a result.

11-04 It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to adjourn the meeting at 9:50am.

Next LACATech meeting will be November 3, 2010 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA