

MINUTES
TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
ONLINE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: July 11, 2011
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: EW42
MEMBERS: Chair: Superintendent Andy Grover, Vice-Chair: Aaron McKinnon, Senator John Goedde, Brad Patzer, Alan Dunn, Spencer Barzee, Cliff Green Mike Caldwell, Patrick Lowenthal, Jason Hancock

Chairman Grover & Jason Hancock (SDE):
Opening remarks

Chairman Grover called the meeting to order. Jason Hancock brought attention to the copies in front of each member of the Committee; minutes from the June meetings and a copy of the Power Point that would be presented. Jason Hancock introduced Committee guests for the day:

1. Allison McClintick, K-12 & Educator Policy Manager, Idaho State Board of Education
2. Jared Jenks, Administrator, Sugar Salem School District (Via the IEN)
3. Garry Lough, Idaho Education Network

Allison McClintick:
Update from Idaho State Board of Education

Allison McClintick stated that the Idaho State Board of Education will have the exact definition of what constitutes a mandatory online course as outlined in Senate Bill 1184 in two weeks; currently, the exact wording is going through the proper legal channels before it can be released. Allison McClintick told the Committee that the board had decided that two credits of online courses would be required; at least one credit has to be asynchronous, while the other can be blended, synchronous, or asynchronous, beginning with the graduating class of 2016.

In regards to Committee questions, Allison McClintick replied that she felt that it would be up to Committee members if the number of mandatory online course credits would increase over the years, the required 51% as defined by a blended course is in reference to instructional time, and the intent of the mandatory online course is so that students leaving high school are ready for similar situations in the workplace and in college. The Idaho State Board of Education will be posting on their website the language of what an online course is. Members of the board will be traveling around the state to host hearings; dates, location, and times will be posted shortly on the Idaho State Board of Education's website.

Chairman Grover & Jared Jenks:
Fractional ADA

Jared Jenks of Sugar Salem voiced several concerns in regards to fractional ADA and online courses; the delivery of quality online courses that will aid in preparing students for postsecondary college or career, districts circumventing fractional ADA to keep the money in district, and quality of coursework through a blended online course being that high schools have less resources than online providers do.

The Committee discussed the cost of an online provider vs. textbooks. The Committee agreed that if a provider can provide the best curriculum, the best

instructor, at the best cost, then it is best for the student. The Committee discussed the use of consortiums between school districts across the state to help meet the online requirement.

In regards to Senate Bill 1184 allowing parents to secure a provider of their choosing, as long as the provider meets the requirements as stated in Senate Bill 1184; the Committee discussed how fractional ADA will be implemented in place of a contract. The Committee also discussed how different districts accept homeschool credits and how some online providers will accept some homeschool credits that districts will not.

Jason Hancock addresses several of the concerns by clarifying that Senate Bill 1184 does not apply to homeschooling situations and that if a student enrolls in an online course they have to notify the school district they are in and the online course has to meet the requirements lined out in Senate Bill 1184.

Garry Lough: Idaho Education Network (IEN)

Garry Lough presented to the committee an overview of the Idaho Education Network (IEN); the network began because Idaho needed connectivity due to the rural areas of the state and the real driver was the increased demand for advanced dual credit course work available across the state. The main revenue source for IEN is E-Rate; other sources are federal stimulus, J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, USDA Rural Utilities Grants and Title IID. The IEN realizes the need for professional development and is allocating dollars towards this. The IEN is on budget and ahead of schedule with 157 schools connected and 37 remaining to be connected.

Garry Lough commented on the funding forecast for IEN; due to the IEN consortium and E-Rate, the majority of the money has been kept in-state. In comparing Idaho to other states, Idaho is more efficient, and with the lower cost of bandwidth connectivity, costs have been driven down.

Garry Lough stated that the IEN can handle the changes that will occur due to Senate Bill 1184; he said that what is provided is prescriptive to the needs of the district. He went on to talk about the IEN bandwidth formula for high school connections as well as site configurations and costs.

Garry Lough described the different courses offered through the IEN; advanced placement, dual credit and high school coursework, college level, graduate programming, workforce training, professional development, synchronous, asynchronous, and blended. Number of courses and students has increased over the last few years. Scheduling is the biggest challenge; from the school calendar to daily schedules. In regards to quality control, Garry Lough suggested different ways to manage the online environment through the use of training, proctors, planning, and communication so that students get the best education possible. The potential of where the IEN can go is limitless; interactive video is going to be more focused on the dual credit and synchronous classes will be the best. Garry Lough thinks Idaho will outpace a lot of states because we have already begun movement in that direction.

Garry Lough answered several questions; if a school is already a receiving site, they could become a sending site at the cost of a camera, E-Rate funds are

bringing in 10 to 11 million to the state of Idaho, E-Rate cannot be used towards online classes, but those costs should go down as companies upgrade their infrastructures. IEN will be expanding to elementary school and libraries.

**Chairman Grover:
Closing**

Chairman Grover called the meeting to a close and reminded Committee members to read over the June minutes so that the minutes can be accepted when the Committee reconvenes at 8:30 in the morning, July 12, 2011.