

MINUTES
TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
Platform, Specifications, and Procurement Subcommittee

DATE: November 7, 2011
TIME: 1:40pm – 3:56pm
PLACE: WW53
MEMBERS: Chairman Jayson Ronk, Vice Chairman Keven Denton, Jenn Johnson, Representative Wendy Jaquet, Gary Smith, and Senator Melinda Smyser

The committee viewed a video presentation created by Keven Denton, which was filmed during his trip to Maine with a team of Technical Task Force observers. They met and observed students, teachers, and technical staff and discussed the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) with those responsible for its implementation.

Representative Jaquet brought up concerns about the current bill's provision of devices being distributed a third at a time over the next 3 years. It was brought up in the video that Maine felt the plan to do this would cause failure, as that had been their experience when splitting up the provision of devices between certain staff or certain grade levels. Representative Jaquet believed the bill should be changed so that a 1/3 of *districts* would be given the devices and that staffing levels should be considered, especially with separate RFPs.

Senator Smyser requested that we get figures on staffing and questioned what amount of the budget is provided for ancillary (librarian, principals, certified teachers, administrators) staff for 1:1 devices. Louie Konkol believed Troy Wheeler is changing the language in the RFP to include all of these positions.

The Committee also viewed a slide presentation from Gary Smith. He and his team visited Auburn, Alabama, where they are using tablets in a wireless environment, in conjunction with the Smart Board. It was pointed out that students are allowed to personalize their desktop, but it will be automatically reimaged at the end of the day. They are also allowed to keep music on their devices, but can only be listened to at the teacher's discretion. An open classroom set-up encourages student engagement. Dyknow is used for networking. No paper was used, but they had the capability should it be necessary. The schools that the team visited said the more schools that get involved, the better. They all have funding issues and this will show the importance of one-on-one device usage in schools.

Mark Little, Department of Administration, brought in copies of the RFI Responses for the committee to review individually. It is expected that the committee will meet late-November or early December using IEN to discuss findings to incorporate into the RFP. The hope is that the RFP will be out to the vendors by April 1, 2012. Vice Chair Denton wants to be sure that that there is

enough time for the chosen vendor have enough time to provide devices by the July timeline.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:56pm.