Reconvene Educational Technology Commission Meeting, August 7, 2009, 9:30 am

Roll Call:

Commission Members Present:
- Assemblyman Mo Denis
- Senator Mike Schneider
- Chairperson Jhone Ebert
- Dr. Keith Rheault
- Arnie Maurins
- Bill Slentz
- David Flatt
- Dori Jensen
- Ji Wang
- Dr. John Newman
- Essington Wade

Commission Members Absent:
- Dan Stockwell

Chairperson Ebert thanked Joe Elcano for the tour of Cannon Elementary School.

Mr. Elcano thanked the Commission Members for taking time to visit and then introduced the new Washoe County School District Superintendent, Dr. Heath Morrison.

Dr. Morrison thanked Mr. Elcano for the introduction and shared his background history and his thoughts on the importance of Educational Technology.

Chairperson Ebert asked for any questions or comments.

Member Wang stated he was impressed by what I saw this morning WCSD. The site visit showed that technology taught well makes a big difference. A school that didn't make AYP for 4 years running, used technology to help the school to make AYP this year.

Dr. Morrison stated that the investment in training is as important as the investment in technology. He expressed that we need all teachers to understand how important technology is to move student achievement forward.

8. **Review and Possible Approval of State Educational Technology Implementation Grant Applications**

The Commission reviewed a spreadsheet provided by Dr. Vidoni with the final funding allocations.

Member Wang stated that in looking at the 2 applications, Lincoln County School District is getting 6 times, per-cent wise, the amount per pupil. They only have 1000 students. The other 16 districts used a formula and Mr. Elcano made sure that no single district received more than their share. He feels the Commission should look again at the allocations to Lincoln and the 16 district consortium.

Member Slentz agreed with Member Wang. He feels that the decision was rushed and is upset that the Commission may have sent the message that consortium doesn't work. Member Slentz would like to move to reconsider the allocations. Member Wang agreed to second.

Assemblyman Denis offered a different point of view. If it was just about a collaboration of the districts, to be fair, the Educational Technology Commission would not be needed. We are here to look at what the needs are and see if there any special things that should be done.

Dr. Rheault agreed with Assemblyman Denis, he doesn't feel that the consortium was a failure. Lincoln took a step by going out on their own, which accomplished a purpose and encourages them to continue working toward that end. Dr. Rheault stated he is comfortable, Lincoln had a better application. This process encourages the districts and consortium to work together.

Member Jensen said she wants to see what Lincoln is doing. Which is better, textbooks or computers? She noted that this is a win-win situation in that every district received some funding, in the past there were districts that got nothing.

Member Flatt agreed with what Member Jensen has said.

Member Maurins added that whatever way we go today, he would like to see all districts participate in the consortium. Perhaps one district could try a pilot project that may take a larger share of the funds.

Member Jensen stated that in the future everyone should be able to see the outcome of each districts' projects.

Member Slentz asked what things are being tried in Lincoln that are not being tried in the rest of the state? Is there more than textbooks vs. computers?

Assemblyman Denis stated that this funding goes to the whole school, not just a number of classrooms.

Member Wang agreed that the application should be competitive. If we just use a formula, what would be the point of the Commission? Lincoln did a good job on the application with regard to the writing.

Chairperson Ebert added that the consortium is an excellent idea. The Commission needs to review the totality in order to do funding.

Member Newman echoed the comments of Member Jensen. The bottom line is what is the best for the kids and those who will be served. He stated the process is not perfect but cautioned that if we open this back up, line by line, who is going to be the one to tell a district they won't have any funding?

Member Slentz stated that the Commission is making a 2 year decision with all the money that we have. We need to make sure that we do it right.

Member Slentz moved to reconsider the allocation that was done the previous day.

Dr. Rheault asked for a Roll Call vote on the motion.

Assemblyman Denis-NO
Senator Schneider-NO
Chairperson Ebert-NO
Member Maurins-NO
Member Slentz-YES
Member Flatt-NO
Member Jensen-NO
Member Wang-YES
Member Newman-NO
Dr, Rheault-NO

The Motion failed.

9. Set Date of Next Meeting and Discuss Future Agenda Topics

Chairperson Ebert noted that the actual site visits cannot have a quorum. She suggested scheduling site visits October 1st.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 16th, 9:00 am. This meeting will be arranged as a Video conference to save money on travel to use for site visits

Future agenda topics:

Assemblyman Denis offered a suggestion that the Commission should review the progress of the applications in the future when considering the next allocation. Perhaps the Commission could request an update on a specific project.

Member Wang agreed and would like to develop a model for the districts to follow.

Member Jensen commented that over her years on the Commission, this round of grants has the highest impact in the classroom.

Member Slentz proposed the prospect of recognition or accreditation for districts and teachers who are at the forefront of these programs.

Senator Schneider suggested a discussion of the savings that would come from the rehabilitation of the schools that should include weatherization. The energy savings can help fund technology.

Assemblyman Denis offered that the Commission should look at what is going on nationally.

11. Comments from the Commissioners:

Member Slentz restated that the infrastructure needs to be continually looked at.

Member Newman agreed with Member Slentz.

Member Maurins advised that the Washoe Library is going to use a recently received Federal grant to add a homework helper to their systems.

Chairperson Ebert stated that she appreciates everyone's participation. The diversity of the state showed the most in the last day and a half.

12. Public comments.

Dr. Vidoni echoed what Member Wang said about focusing on some models that will work in Nevada to start streamlining the funding process.
She expressed appreciation for the role of the commissioners as advocates for Educational Technology and commend all of the applicants on their efforts.

13. Member Schneider motioned to adjourn. Member Flatt seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting of the Educational Technology Commission adjourned at

Respectfully submitted:

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Dr. Keith Rheault
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Jhone Ebert, Chairperson
Commission on Educational Technology

Transcribed by:

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Tedie Lee