

**THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2000  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM #101  
700 EAST FIFTH STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA

**Minutes**

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Moises Denis, Chairman  
Daniel Combo, Member  
Fred Dugger, Member  
Dori Jensen, Member  
Sara Jones, Member  
Bart Mangino, Member  
Katrina Meyer, Member  
Senator Bill O'Donnell, Member  
Assemblyman Kelly Thomas, Member  
Marlene Lockard, Ex-officio  
Mary Peterson, Ex-officio

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Shawn Franklin, Member  
Brian Herr, Member

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF PRESENT:**

Douglas Thunder, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services  
Frank South, Team Leader, Human Resources & Technology  
Mark Knudson, Educational Technology Consultant  
Jane Crawford, Management Assistant  
Bill Strader, Library Consultant  
Gina Molina, Management Assistant

**NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Pepper Sturm, Research Analyst

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

Duane Barton, Elko County School District  
John Croslin, Humboldt County School District  
Jerry Atkins, Storey County School District  
Danny L. Noss, White Pine County School District  
Randy Robison, Lincoln County School District  
Bob Janka, Nevada Youth Training Center  
Elmer Porter, Eureka County School District  
Jhone Ebert, Clark County School District

Christy Falba, Clark County School District  
Lisa Frazier, Northeast Nevada Technology Consortium  
Pat Miller, Channel 5  
Stan Fuke, Clark County School District  
Joan Kerschner, Henderson Public Library  
Dr. Phil Brody, Clark County School District  
Lee Solanche, Channel 10  
Janice Towns, Carson City School District  
Steve Welch, Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection  
Jean Murray, Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection  
Cynthia Trainer, State Purchasing  
Bob Pistner, Lander County School District  
Dan Fox, Pershing County School District  
Gary Moncuso, Washoe County School District  
Pat Phillips, Lieutenant Governor Hunt's Office

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Moises Denis, at the Department of Education, Board Conference Room, Carson City, Nevada, called the meeting of the Commission on Educational Technology (CET) to order at 9:43 a.m.

### **1. ROLL CALL:**

Members who were present and absent are listed above.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Fred Dugger made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Katrina Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Assemblyman Kelly Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 3, 1999. Ms. Dori Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Presentation by Selected Library Database Vendors for Nevada State Library & Archives RFP:**

Ms. Sara Jones introduced Jim Wilson and Tamara Storm from EBSCO Publishing.

Mr. Wilson explained that EBSCO is an online periodical vendor. The magazine periodical index has approximately 767 full text magazines. For example, *National Geographic* and the *L.A. Times* are both on contract with EBSCO. Full text means that the magazine is online article by article from cover to cover with nothing left out. Most of the issues are received by EBSCO prepublished so that all the information on the web site is extremely current. Most of the full text goes back to 1990.

EBSCO offers different products for elementary, middle, and high school levels as well as a product for public libraries. The Community College is currently using the public libraries product. The products are also available to students at home.

EBSCO believes that training is very important. Included in the RFP are 14 training sessions and other training that might be necessary for someone that was not able to attend one of the 14 sessions.

Mr. Fred Dugger asked whether or not any advertisements were included with the full text magazines. Mr. Wilson explained that the advertisements were not included. Mr. Dugger also asked if all the graphics were included with the cover to cover magazines. Mr. Wilson stated that graphics are generally there and currently EBSCO is working on getting those graphics up in PDF format including the advertisements.

Assemblyman Thomas asked how many journals are included in Nevada's package. Mr. Wilson explained that 767 are included in the package that was chosen and the index on that is approximately 2,700 titles. Also the professional development selection, which has 250 titles, has been included in the package as well as the topic search database. All together there are over 1,000 full text journals available.

At this time Ms. Jones introduced Mr. Jeff Cutler, representative of SIRS Mandarin, Inc.

Mr. Cutler gave a brief overview of the background of SIRS Mandarin, Inc. The focus of the company was to pull out the types of materials that are most useful and have something to add to subjects of critical issues.

The SIRS database is built by selecting around 3,000 publications including newspapers, magazines, government documents, international publications and articles that have information relative to critical issues. The articles are then collected in full text format. The databases are accumulative and added to on a daily basis dating as far back as 1990. SIRS tries not to index materials more than one time so that it is not redundant since newspapers and other services share information.

Mr. Cutler gave a brief overview of the SIRS web site highlighting the topics, listed article size and bibliography lists. Topics include government documents, arts and humanities, and renaissance. Each of the topics is further subdivided by subjects that are again subdivided by specific titles.

Assemblyman Thomas asked how many publications are available. Mr. Cutler stated that there are approximately 3,000 publications that are used for selection of articles. Articles might not be selected if they had no substantive intellectual material to offer to a research process. Assemblyman Thomas stated that there is a lot of overlap between EBSCO and SIRS. Mr. Cutler pointed out that there might be times when researching a topic is easier than searching from a periodical standpoint of EBSCO. Mr. Wilson also brought to attention that SIRS offers information that EBSCO may not have and the two work together. EBSCO is more of an index database verses SIRS which is more of a topic database. Mr. Cutler explained that there is no way to completely eliminate overlap but the way the information is delivered is different between the two products. One product may deliver information in a more appealing form than the other depending on the student.

Ms. Joan Kerschner came up from the audience and made a few summary comments. Ms. Kerschner explained that the ongoing costs are limited by these products verses the cost of ordering hard copies of each journal or magazine. The approximate price of these products per person is 10 and approximately \$500.00-\$600.00 per location. If the libraries ordered the equivalent number of journals in paper the cost would be over \$2,000.00 per location for encyclopedias alone.

Mr. Dugger commented that an ongoing operating budget should be requested from the governor so that the products could continue in the future. Ms. Mary Peterson replied that the money should be prominently displayed in the Technology Plan with a footnote that it should no longer be funded with "one shot" money but should be incorporated into the base costs. There may also be the possibility of linking to the four professional development centers for the ongoing training that will be needed for teachers.

Ms. Jones made a motion that the Technology Commission authorize the expenditure of the Library database funding to award contracts to EBSCO Publishing and SIRS Mandarin for two years. Senator O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Recommended Strategies for the State Technology Plan:**

Mr. Mark Knudson explained that this item was to introduce different ideas that the Commission might want to think about regarding the State Technology Plan. Mr. Knudson also pointed out that the Commission is

required by law to review the plan annually and make any revisions necessary.

The main goal is to come out with a strategy to propose at the next legislative session, which would possibly increase the funding for educational technology in Nevada. Some considerations that should be addressed in the strategy are:

- a. Ongoing commitment to technology.
- b. Appropriate timeline.
- c. Measurable objectives.
- d. Assessment of student achievement.
- e. Address new state standards.
- f. Tiered options.
- g. Presentation of the strategy to the Legislators.

Mr. Knudson reviewed the current technology plan's main four goals:

1. Technology infrastructure
2. High-quality content material
3. Professional development
4. Timely tech support

Mr. Knudson explained that the majority of funds from the last biennium and the current biennium were spent on the first two goals, technology infrastructure and high-quality content material. Mr. Knudson explained that the second two goals, professional development and timely tech support, should be addressed in the upcoming biennium. Mr. Knudson went on to give examples of potential strategies for each of the four goals (see Attachment A).

Mr. Knudson presented a suggested timeline for the review and revision of the technology plan.

1. January - Plan for revision
2. February - Retreat to revise plan
3. April - Revision and rewrite complete
4. May - Legislative strategy complete

Mr. Dugger mentioned that in addition to the revision of the Technology Plan, the Hardware, Software and Wiring Standards must be looked at. Also reports need to be done on what has been done with the money the Commission has already allocated.

A suggested work session was recommended for the month of February and was set for the dates of February 7, 2000 and possibly, if needed, February 8, 2000 at the Legislative Building in Carson City. Also, the possibility of having a facilitator that has knowledge of the issues was discussed and delegated to department staff to coordinate, if possible. It was also suggested that department staff inquire about having someone from the Governor's staff attend the working session. Senator O'Donnell asked Mr. Knudson if he would go through the Technology Plan and point out what needs to be changed, added, etc.

Mr. Dugger commented that the public and the school districts should also be invited. In addition, Senator O'Donnell stated that Channel 10 and Channel 5 need to be invited. Mr. Knudson replied that he would extend the invitation to everyone requested including the Northeast Technology Consortium.

## **6. Draft RFP/Criteria for Choosing and Funding a Consultant for Review and Revision of the State Technology Plan:**

Mr. Denis stated that discussion on this item would not be appropriate at this time since the Commission would not know if they are going to revise the Plan until after the February work session.

## **7. Nevada Educational Technology Consortium Update:**

Ms. Jhone Ebert, Chairperson of the Nevada Educational Technology Consortium (NETC), gave a brief overview of how the NETC has worked in connection with the Commission over the last few years. Ms. Ebert introduced Mr. John Croslin, Humboldt County School District, at this time to take over the presentation.

Mr. Croslin introduced himself to the Commission and explained how the Consortium got started (see Attachment B). There is one voting member per school district and additional nonvoting members.

Some of the advantages and accomplishments of the NETC are:

- a. Shared pricing
- b. Shared professional development
- c. Technical resources
- d. Collaboration and cooperation
- e. Nevada Technology Leadership Conference

At this time Ms. Christy Falba, Clark County School District, took over the presentation. Ms. Falba explained to the Commission that she had written a grant to the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (TLCF) on behalf of the Consortium last year. The funds were used to hold a statewide technology conference. The conference was also funded for this year. Last year there were over 400 participants and this year they are hoping to have over 800 participants. The conference covered a wide range of topics that included hands on presentations and (topics on) what other classroom teachers have been doing with technology and how it can tie into the curriculum. Participant comments were very complimentary. Ms. Falba invited the Commission to attend the Conference this year on March 4-5, 2000.

Commissioner Meyer commented that she had attended the conference last year and was impressed and encouraged the other Commissioners to go this year.

Senator O'Donnell asked if the conference was open to private schools. Ms. Falba stated that the information was made available to the private schools.

Mr. Dugger asked what the Commission could do to help the NETC. Ms. Ebert replied that the Commission is doing so already by looking at all the aspects of technology including ongoing support, equipment upgrades, professional development, etc. Also, by listening to what the needs are in the districts is very important.

## **8. Eureka County School District Update on SB 482 Special Project:**

Mr. Elmer Porter, Eureka County School District, gave an update on what has been happening with the special funds project that the Commission funded.

Eureka County School District (ECSD) received the funding to implement a two part plan. The first part allowed them to hire an educational technology consultant that came in and assessed their current technology infrastructure, programs and to provide guidance to implement future technology educational programs and curriculum that would increase student achievement. Secondly, the funds allowed the school district to purchase and implement Computer Curriculum Corporations (CCC) *Success Maker* into the elementary schools.

In February of 1999, Kathleen Barfield was hired as the educational technology consultant. Ms. Barfield visited ECSD to assess the current technology, programs and conduct surveys. Ms. Barfield conducted a work session with the technology committee to begin the process of forming a strategic technology curriculum plan. Ms. Barfield gave the district a plan that will be available for review by the Commission or other districts and given to Mr. Knudson. The plan includes the current technology assessment, survey results, future technology recommendations, best practices and top rated educational software assessments.

Ms. Barfield finished her contract commitment with ECSD by presenting her recommendations to the school board. The information and services provided by Ms. Barfield consisted of :

- a. A qualitative case study of the district

- b. Presentation of the assessment to key decision makers within the district
- c. Established an interview focus group protocol
- d. Conducted face to face interviews and focus group meetings
- e. Prepared written reports of the data gathering to the districts
- f. Identified exemplary programs
- g. Presented the latest research and student achievement to the district
- h. Coordination with regional and state guidelines
- i. Assessment criteria
- j. Provided a final report

Mr. Porter stated that the money was well spent and it gave ECSD the direction that they are going in now. Currently the district is in the second year of changing their entire curriculum to a project based curriculum. The report couldn't have come at a better time.

The CCC *Success Maker* Program is used by more than 1.5 million students worldwide. ECSD purchased courseware in the areas of math, science, reading and language arts which includes over 3,000 hours of student instruction. *Success Maker* enables teachers not only to create engaging learning environment but establish individualized student learning paths. ECSD initially purchased and installed 15 server site licenses for Eureka Elementary School and 10 for Crescent Valley Elementary School.

Mr. Porter invited the Commission to ECSD to see what activities are going on and how the funding has been used.

## 9. Presentation of ENTICE:

Ms. Jhone Ebert explained that ENTICE was a special project funded by the Commission. ENTICE stands for *Education In Nevada, Technology Infusion for Curriculum Enhancement*. The logo was developed by students at the Advanced Technologies Academy.

Project ENTICE tries to provide many different ways for teachers to receive the professional development they need. The videos cover three areas. The first section covers getting started. These videos talk about computer basics such as how to turn the computer on. The middle section of videos were interaction videos. There are six interaction videos that include call-in sessions where teachers could answer the questions that the callers were asking. The last section of videos focused on integration and making it happen. Again this section consist of six videos. The teachers are shown how to use the technology in the classroom and with the students. All of these videos have corresponding information that can be found on Clark County's web site under the ENTICEments section (see Attachment C). A clip of the one computer classroom video was shown to the Commission.

Ms. Falba showed the Commission that ENTICE had also developed a "workshop in a box". This box contains everything that teachers should need to deliver the six main integration workshop videos (see Attachment C, page 2). All districts received a "workshop in a box" and the three part series of videos. The videos can also be obtained by contacting KLVX. Currently more than 2,000 videos have been distributed throughout the state. The tapes are also being requested by other states including Alabama.

Mr. Dugger suggested that Ms. Ebert and Ms. Falba present project ENTICE to the Legislative Committee on Education. Mr. Denis also suggested that with the videos a promotional video might be made to show the legislature.

## 10. Telecommunication Advisory Committee Update:

Mr. Frank South stated that he had met with Ed Anderson, as directed by the Commission, who said he

would be happy to serve an official member of the Telecommunications Advisory Committee. Mr. Dugger made a motion that the Commission appoint Edward Anderson, Director, Telecommunications Services, System Computing Services, UCCSN, to serve on the Telecommunications Advisory Group. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Marlene Lockard stated that the Telecommunications Advisory group would meet prior to the February 7-8, 2000 meeting, of the Commission, so that there are some recommendations that could be brought forward to the work session. It was asked that staff coordinate the date of the meeting with Ms. Lockard and other members of the Committee.

#### **11. Report on Educational Technology Activities:**

Mr. South explained that the Department of Education has been asked to keep the Commission apprised of their activities that are relative to educational technology.

Since the last time the Commission met the department has developed and sent an application to the school districts for the next round of funds that the Commission will allocate. Also, Mr. Knudson put together a potential RFP for the Commission's consideration as instructed.

In addition, the department has been working with the Rural Technology Task Force and Ms. Sara Merserau to discuss satellite internet downlinking to some of the rural counties. Mr. Knudson has also been working with *ThinkQuest* and will be providing information to the districts about that. Mr. Knudson will also be attending a grant writing workshop on grant writing for educational technology. The TLCF is in the budget that has been passed by Congress. The department is currently awaiting information on the exact amount. Mr. Knudson has also been working on the Academic Standards for Technology.

#### **12. Standing Report on Educational Technology Funding:**

Mr. Douglas Thunder gave a brief status report of funds available for operation of the Commission, funds in the Trust Fund, and funds appropriated by the legislature that the Commission awards to applicants (see Attachment D).

#### **13. Comments from Commissioners:**

Mr. Denis congratulated all the technology persons that worked on Y2K related issues.

Mr. Denis also asked the Commission how they felt about sponsored lunches. Ms. Lockard stated that she felt it would be a good thing but that the Commission should make sure that there would not be any ethical ramifications. Mr. Dugger suggested that staff contact the Attorney General's Office and inquire about the ethics of having sponsored lunches.

Chairperson Denis stated that if it was okay with the other members of the Commission he would write a letter in support of the federal grant Ms. Meyer is writing to "light" the "dark" fiber for educational use.

Mr. Dan Combo commented that he felt timely technical support is a high priority level in the technology plan because nothing can be done if the technology is down. If you start to integrate the technology into the classroom and it is not working you might find that you have down time that can get to be a real problem for instruction. Secondly, if you are going to have strong professional development, the technology will have to work. If the technology is not working and you have trained teachers then the technology training will not work.

#### **14. Public Comments:**

There were no comments made by the public.

**15. Adjournment:**

Senator Bill O'Donnell made a Motion for Adjournment. Ms. Katrina Meyer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Douglas C. Thunder  
Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services

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Moises Denis, Chairperson for the Commission on Educational Technology

Recorded by:

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Gina M. Molina  
Management Assistant