

BCN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Attendees:

In Person: Tim Schell, Nan Linde, Connie Bandt, Bob Bocher, Marge Jeffers, Jay Jaeger, Jamie Poindexter, Tom Taibl, Larry Baeder, Chris Sarandos, Herb Britsch, Mike Kessenich, Susan Canty

Phone Bridge: Jennifer Olson, Bill Schultz, Greg Barniskis,

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Tim Schell.

BCN Contract Extension Update

Susan Canty from DOA reported that we do have an agreement in principle with AT&T that was completed 5 weeks ago. AT&T has the contract and is currently working to complete negotiations with its subs. DOA is hoping for a contract by the end of the month. Bob Bocher asked if there were any expected issues coming from sub-carriers. Tom Taibl said they are waiting for the large corporations to complete the review as well as Access WI. There are 50 companies that need to work through this process and approve the contract. AT&T has verbal agreements but is waiting for formal signatures. It is very close to being finalized.

Implementation Process for Increasing Bandwidth-

Nan Linde stated that TEACH developed a new implementation packet and a web-based portal. Once all websites are updated and they have reviewed the guidelines in the TEACH packet, they will send the link to every contact on the TEACH database. It will include the strategy for implementation and also outline the process. Every TEACH customer will be contacted to review their bandwidth needs.

- Any customer needing additional bandwidth will have to complete a new application.
- If a school or library has a pending TEACH request on file, it will have to re-apply using the new guidelines.

Bob Bocher expressed concern with the level of bandwidth that will be available for schools and libraries. There is an expectation that schools will receive 100 mpbs and libraries 20mbps due to the broadband grant that was later returned. DOA also made a commitment earlier this year to this level of bandwidth. Nan Linde noted the following.

- The new guidelines will address these questions and provide information on how to apply
- The rates are not currently available but will be published after the contract is signed.
- School districts that currently have multiple schools on BCN will retain their current status but will not receive additional bandwidth through TEACH. Retail options are available.
- Schools and libraries will have to justify their bandwidth requests based on statistics in their new applications to meet internal auditing needs.
- Schools that supplement their TEACH subsidies with additional bandwidth at the retail rate are billed as follows: TEACH is billed for the subsidized amount while the additional retail rate is billed directly to the school.
- Applications for new TEACH sites will require additional justification to qualify for the subsidy. This will be detailed in the guidelines,
- TEACH must live within its budget and must be mindful of this when accepting new sites
- New bandwidth rates will become effective on the first day of the month following the signing of the new contract (estimated for November 1, 2011)
- State agencies will follow the same process followed today
- When the initial communication goes out to schools and libraries announcing the new contract, a detailed timeline for implementation.

Bob Bocher advocated for a minimum bandwidth threshold for libraries of 5 mbps with a sliding scale up to 100 mbps or more for larger libraries. Greg Barniskis noted it was unlikely that libraries would need more than 100 mbps in the near term. Nan Linde offered to review current usage statistics with libraries to assist with bandwidth needs.

Regarding quality of service, HPLL will continue in the new contract and will also include an upgrade to HD.

Bill Schultz requested a list of the private colleges currently on BCN along with their current bandwidth and usage statistics. Nan will provide the TEACH subsidized list and Larry Baeder will also review their retail list as well.

Marge Jeffers and Tim Schell will locate volunteers to review the new TEACH portal and provide feedback to Nan.

Bob Bocher noted two areas of concern.

1 – Router upgrades will be needed by most schools and libraries to accommodate their bandwidth increases and is concerned with who will pay for this.

2 – Who will pay for the fiber build-outs required for schools and libraries?

Chris Sarandos noted the DOA is reviewing this to determine funding.

UW Extension CAN ARRA Grant Status

No report – legal issues are ongoing. Work is continuing as injunctions have not been enacted. Next hearing is Nov. 11 to decide if court suit will be dismissed. If not, trial date is set for January.

Election – Secretary

(to complete term through December 2012)

Marge Jeffers is retiring from WADEN which on September 30th leaves a vacancy for the secretary position for BCN Advisory Council. Tim Schell called for volunteers to serve the remainder of this term.

Herb Britsch will likely replace Jay Jaeger but this is not official so they cannot commit at this time. Currently, Tim Schell is chair, Ed Meachen is vice-chair, and at large members are Bob Bocher and Joan Wade. It makes sense to have an agency person represented on the Executive Committee. It may be possible to make a temporary assignment and wait until December to elect a new secretary. Bob Bocher volunteered to step in for December and hold the election for a new secretary at the December meeting.

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Chris Sarandos from DOA noted it was a good discussion today. He is learning a great deal and is an advocate for this type of initiative for classrooms and libraries. He understands how students benefit but also what the lack of bandwidth does to an organization and the frustrations on the customer side. DOA wants to do as much as possible but it is a matter of priorities and money. They are working with BCN to make this happen as a team in the future. Tim thanked him and welcomed him on board with our group.

Bob Bocher made a motion to adjourn, second by Susan Canty. Approved

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.