K-12 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date	April 25, 2013
Meeting Location	DSIT – 4430 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29210
Facilitator	Tom Fletcher
Note Taker	Gay Hoyer
Attendees	John Bane (DSIT), Dean Byrd (SCETV), Valarie Byrd (DSIT), Don Cantrell (SCDE), Amy Duernberger (SCSL), Tom Fletcher (DSIT), James Gordon (DSIT), Beth Shull (AT&T), Samantha Hastings (USC), Teena Frazer (Spirit Telecom)

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1	Approval of Minutes	Presenter:	Tom Fletcher

1. Tom Fletcher called the meeting to order and asked for approval or corrections to the minutes from the February meeting. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Agenda Item 2	Virtual Textbooks	Presenter:	Dean Byrd

1. Dean Byrd was on hand to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of ebooks. An electronic book (variously, e-book, ebook, digital book, or even e-edition) is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices. Sometimes the equivalent of a conventional printed book, e-books can also be born digital.   Electronic books are usually read on dedicated ebook readers or general purpose computer tablets. Personal computers and many mobile phones (most smart phones) can also be used to read ebooks.
2. Is the demise of the printed textbook on the horizon because of electronic textbooks? Will ebooks gain widespread acceptance in the classroom? That may take some time and some hurdles to overcome. Some problems that arise with ebooks are as follows:
    a. **There is no one-stop shopping:** Schools can't subscribe to one service and get all the electronic books that are needed. Whereas, with print you have a much wider selection of books from which to purchase.
    b. **Lack of standardization:** There is no agreement as to what format the ebook should be in. Some publishers use ePub, some use HTML and some PDF to mention a few. Not all ebooks work on all devices. Some ebooks will work on any device but require the user to have continuous Internet access.
    c. **Inconsistent pricing models:** Publishers have varied pricing models some of which can be pricey. For example, some publishers require schools to pay individually for each copy of the ebook so it must be purchased multiple times for multiple students. Some publishers expect the ebook to expire after a certain number of uses, thus having to repurchase the book. Some publishers charge the same price for an ebook as a printed book, even though the ebook doesn't need to be printed, costs very little to ship or store and can be shipped almost immediately after it is published.
    d. **Access to technology:** Many students do not have access to the technology required to even use an ebook. While some schools are able to furnish students with technology such as laptops or iPads, other schools can't afford to do the same. There could also be a problem with the ability to provide schools with adequate bandwidth, if necessary.
3. The advantages to ebooks are:
    a. Reduced loads in kid's backpacks.
    b. The ability of the textbook to be more current (can be updated without having to purchase a whole new book).
    c. In the future you will have access to a wider range of materials.
    d. The ability to add more interactivity.
    e. Ability to have embedded video.

f. Electronic books may have the ability to be modified. Students are often allowed to choose their own font and font size. This can be useful to students who have visual impairments.
g. Ability to customize materials to the learning needs of the student. Some ebooks are available in multiple languages and some allow students to add their own documents or images or make notes.
h. More environmentally friendly.
4. ETV has agreement with Discovery; they will give free science and social studies textbook subscriptions for the remaining of the year so that schools can preview their products. Discovery will standardize to SC standards and can offer ebooks very economically and for a period of 6 years. They will also help with lesson plans and to customize using teacher materials.
5. There are some districts that are taking advantage of this offer.
6. ETV has content that they may want to have published in ebook form and are looking for grants to help facilitate some of their ideas.
7. Using ebooks and today's technology is a whole new world. We need educate educators on the best way to use these tools.

Agenda Item 3	K-12 Security Subcommittee	Presenter:	Valarie Byrd

1. Monthly meetings resumed April 8, 2013.
2. The group welcomed new staff member Mr. Avery Lyde.
3. Four districts remain that have not completed caching proxy deployment requirement.
4. The main topics under discussion included: Review of current committee objectives, incorporating the new Internet Policy Bandwidth trending procedure, current and forecasted bandwidth tiers of network members for equipment deployment planning, ISAC report card, K-12 Security impact of possible new state laws/bills.

Agenda Item 4	eRate Status / Network Changes	Presenter:	Valarie Byrd

eRate News
1. The FCC announced the eRate program funding cap for FY 2013: $2,380,314,485 plus $415,279.08 in rollover funds.
2. Federal Sequestration: Universal Services Funds are treated as an Exempt Budget Authority-source of eRate program funding and administration will not be affected.
3. Large support and advocacy by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman, John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV, along with congress, FCC and others for an increase in access to telecommunications and broadband infrastructure for schools and communities through the eRate program. They want to push to increase program funding cap $5-9 billion over the "rest of the decade" ($1-1.5 billion per year).

Committee Initiative – Bandwidth Allocation Policy Revisions for FY 2012-2013
1. The reduced contracted rates for Internet Access acquired by DSIT went into effect April 1st. Members are now realizing lower monthly Cost Share Assessments and have the ability to purchase more bandwidth for less.
2. Per the authority of the committee, two approved recommendations to improve District and Library Internet service were included in the revised Bandwidth Allocation Policy for Internet Access.
3. DSIT circulated draft copies of all proposed Bandwidth Allocation Policies to K-12 committee members and K-12 network members. Overall policy changes are as follows:
   a. Internet access to districts via a new baseline approach. "Baseline Maximum" opposed to the current 100mbps baseline minimum. Target is approximately 10 kbps per students (100 mbps per 1,000).
   b. Still use student headcounts to determine tier eligibility.
   c. To avoid over allocation of bandwidth, DSIT will work with district technology staff when service upgrades are requested. No immediate bandwidth increase as previously done this year. Reduction in service may occur if over allocation is identified. DSIT is working on finalizing the bandwidth trending model process.

d. Library systems will be provided a minimum 10 mbps and increased, as bandwidth data trends show the need, at no additional cost. The tier system based on the number of PCs having Internet access has been discontinued.

   e. No adjustments were made to Special Schools and CATE policy.
4. No changes were suggested for the WAN/LAN Policy.

State eRate Program Status

2012-13 (New Year) Application

1. BEARs requests were submitted for the three approved eRate applications.
2. USAC auditors are still processing the two remaining state eRate applications.

2013-14 (Upcoming Year) Application

1. DSIT began issuing FY 2013-14 CIPA certification requests and MOU's to network members this month.
2. DSIT is working with SDE/SCSL to ensure Tech Plan coverage for members by July 1st.
3. DSIT provided four additional free eRate training sessions to all network members.

Bandwidth Allocation Deployment Phase IV-Fiber Placement Opportunities

1. The following districts have completed projects:
   a. Berkeley (Phase II)
   b. Dillon 04
   c. Spartanburg 07
2. The following districts will have active projects soon:
   a. Anderson 04
   b. Anderson 05
   c. Chester
   d. Dorchester 02
3. The following districts are being evaluated:
   a. Dillon 3
   b. Edgefield
   c. York 02
   d. York 04

Network Status

1. Conversion for under-served/expensive bandwidth updates for Wireless and MPLS locations is as follows:
   a. MPLS locations – Remaining locations are still under investigation:
      - Allendale (1)
      - Charleston (5)
      - Orangeburg 4 (2)
      - Florence 2 (1)
   b. Libraries – General evaluations of layouts are being done to determine other options. Locations with MPLS (some have ME locations also) service are:
      - ABBE
      - AHJ
      - Charleston
      - Colleton
      - Orangeburg
      - Darlington
      - York
      - Fairfield
   c. The following are Wireless WAN locations:
      Kershaw (2)
      Aiken (1)
      Hampton 2 (8)

Agenda Item 5	Budget	Presenter:	James Gordon

1. James will be sending out budget forms in the next couple of weeks so that we can begin establishing the budget for the next fiscal year.

Next Meeting	May 23, 2013
Location	Division of State IT, 4430 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29210