South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2024

Attendees:

Robert Nichols, Admin	Brian Pratt, SDE
Petra Turner, Admin	Valarie Byrd, SDE
Susannah Simpson, Admin	Salandra Bowman, SCETV
Mackenzie Jackson, Admin	Matthew Laverly, EOC
Matt Kinard, Admin	Lesa Caldwell, Segra
Mike Shelton, Admin	Patricia Sinclair, State Library
Jason Epting, Admin	Tina Leitzsey, Newberry Co. SD
Nathan Hogue, Admin	Mark Leslie, Richland One SD
Gabe Creech, Admin	

Noting a quorum of Committee members, Nathan Hogue called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the June 13, 2024 Committee meeting were provided to Committee members.
Mr. Hogue solicited the Committee members for comments, edits, and questions regarding the minutes.
Hearing none, Matthew Lavery motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Petra Turner seconded the motion.
- The June 13, 2024 SC. K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee Minutes were unanimously approved.

E-Rate Update
Petra Turner provided an update on various E-Rate related issues to the Committee.

1. Current-year applications have not yet been approved for funding, which is slower than previous years. The initial review requirements are stricter this year, slowing down the process.
2. Victora is tracking current Category 2 funding applications, which have also been moving slower this year than previous years
   a. Victoria is working with USAC to try and move applications along
3. Bandwidth Allocation Policy Updates

a. There are inconsistencies in the current policy regarding allocation of bandwidth between the special schools and school districts based on student counts
b. Victoria is working on an update which will allow charter schools and school districts to all have the same amount of bandwidth available, based on their student count.
c. The new policy should be ready soon for executive approvals, and will hopefully be presented at the August Principals' meeting, with an effective date of July 1, 2025

No further questions on Petra's updates.

Michael Shelton: Annual Progress Report Update
Michael Shelton thanked the Progress Report Writing Committee for their efforts on top of their regular agency duties. He has received all necessary descriptions and progress data, getting very close to completing a final draft. He plans to work hard to get the draft quickly submitted for approvals and ready for presentation at the August Principals' Meeting.

No further questions on Michael's update.

Robert Nichols: Budget Updates
Robert presented the budget proposal for the upcoming funding year, having received requests from all entities. From the State Legislature, the budget will receive $12,271,825 base appropriations.

1. Non-discretionary Funds
    a. We are in our third year of the Cisco Umbrella contract, and should look to a possible price change in the coming year
    b. We are in year four of five in this Category 2 funding. At this point, almost all requests have been submitted and funded, so distribution numbers are lower this year than in years past
    c. The standard $350,000 will go to Department of Education for technical assistance
2. Discretionary Funds
    a. Department of Education and DTO had no additional requests
    b. State Library: requesting $693,696 in additional funding to be used towards Mailbox Plus, Tumblebooks, and other content development
    c. SCETV: requesting $690,000 in additional funding to be used towards KnowItAll content development as well as AI workforce development
        i. Nathan mentioned the Statewide Strategy on AI and said he would like to know more about SCETV's efforts. Salandra said that SCETV has been tasked with creating a public awareness campaign, and they also aim to update their current AI workforce
        ii. Nathan mentioned the potential for collaboration between the State's efforts and those of SCETV with regards to AI policy

With the additional requests, the budget comes to 0 remaining dollars. Robert requested a motion to approve and present the budget at the August Principals' meeting. Matthew Lavery motioned, and Salandra Bowman seconded the motion.

This preliminary motion carries, and the budget presented at today's meeting will be presented to the Principals on August 27.

Nathan Hogue: Open Committee Discussion
Nathan Hogue reminded the Committee of the August 27 Principals' Meeting, on site at Broad River Road. He opened the floor for open discussion, and there were no additional comments or questions.

Adjournment
Hearing no other new or old business, Matthew Lavery motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and Michael Shelton seconded the motion.
- All Committee members approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:43pm.