



The New York State Distance Learning Consortium
www.nysdlc.org

Meeting Minutes
For
October 19 & 20, 2006

Binghamton, NY

The following is a summary of our most recent meeting. Please let Steve Smith know as soon as possible if anything has been omitted or reported in error.

I. Introduction, Agenda Review and Review of May Meeting Minutes

We had round-the-table introductions. Several new faces included: Derek LaLande, Andrea Tejiodor, and Mike Sperano
16 BOCES and 2 RIC's attended this meeting.
The agenda was reviewed
Review of notes from our last meeting ended with no corrections

II. Resources for Finding NYS Certified Teachers Interested in Teaching via DL

Discussion revolved around how to recruit, identify and post quality teachers in DL data bank on our website. Largest need is for an ASL teacher.
The question of 'will traditional DL stand up against online learning' came up. Discussion followed around need, union issues, space issues, mobile solution vs. fixed space.
Guidance councilors are an issue in many areas. They do not seem to support scheduling, innovation. It was suggested that we take our guidance councilors to the DL room to see how it works.
We decided to create a "questionnaire" to post to both our website and to send to our teachers as well as identify retired/part time certified teachers.
Suggestions of what could be done to help open the lines of communication: i.e. sit on curriculum councils,
Jennifer and Eliz created a draft template questionnaire to identify teachers that we can work on in the break out session tomorrow. It is attached to the end of these notes.

III. Resources for Online learning That Meet NYS Standards/N.E.T.S. and taught by NYS Certified Teachers

We strayed some on this topic and focused more with online classroom problems. Mike Bayba gave a brief overview of a conversation he had regarding how time consuming it is to keep after the unresponsive student in e-learning courses. It was suggested that the teacher teaching the course should be the one responsible to monitor the children.

Robert Manvell told of a field trip he took and some of the findings. In general students were chosen to pilot the online course and they were already taking challenging courses and it was just too much for them or not a priority for them. Michigan has a requirement that all students graduating from high school need to take at least one online course. Most agree that this will be a general requirement in all schools eventually.

Issues around the “digital” divide were discussed. If you do not allot the required time to complete the course in a regular school day, students who do not have connectivity at home, are at a disadvantage. So the concept of online is that you need time and space in the school day.

Much distress is centered on the Traditional Methods vs. Modern Learning Styles. Mike Sylofsky asked the following questions about online classes:

1. How are schools providing time and space for students to do the course?
2. What have you found to be most successful?
3. Who monitors and evaluates the teacher?
(One district evaluates the course to ensure they are comfortable with the teacher and content. Others just ask for the teachers credentials. It doesn't seem that anyone is doing a formal observation of these teachers. Accelerate U has someone monitoring and advising their staff.)
4. Do online course providers keep track of time students are actually logged in?
(No one had a clear answer on this. Basically if they meet the objectives of the course they have had the seat time. Tracking is available if a school wanted.)
5. Are districts getting State Ed approval for new courses?
(Probably not. It is the principal's issue not ours)

IV. Best Practices and Resources for Electronic Field Trips.

Check www.nyit.ez.org/videoconference or www.cilc.org for resources.

Discussion evolved to include firewall issues. Mike B. and Western NY are looking at Direct Packet solutions.

Some of the BOCES are of the philosophy that they do not want to manage point to point connections, so they give the freedom to their districts to make those connections.

Again we talked about the structure of CoSer's. Video conference, Distance Learning or hourly charges for support.

Holly asked about what NASSAU BOCES charges for the use of the video conferencing resources guide they maintain. Currently they are charging \$5,000.

Maybe we should look into a consortium offer to let use it. It was pretty clear that the free sites are sufficient resources for now.

V. Technology Changes in the Classroom

The issues of types of displays was next discussed. Some are changing to the large screens when replacing TV's. Why? TV's do not fit in the old cabinets, less technical support and field trips are better projected to the large screen.

The question was asked how the various BOCES are guiding their districts when they are upgrading rooms. Some are recommending IP; others still want the ensured quality of Mpeg.

Steve Fenton asked how/if folks are using computers in their rooms. Mike Bayba is the only one who had teachers communicating with computers at remote sites.

Netlinx is being used by some folks who can access touch panels in each room. The new version requires VNC, it cannot be used as the web version. Mike Hicks reports that he finds the VNC version faster.

Michelle asks for recommendations or procedures on how to advise the districts when they need to upgrade. Based on the previous discussions it seems that there are a variety of opinions. Tony Abbatiello and Mike Bayba both rely on Dan Myer's opinion.

Internet II was brought up. Perhaps it is the "fourth dimension". Mega Conference is coming up. <http://digitalunion.osu.edu/megaconference/> Consensus was that in NYS we are not using I2 as much as other parts of the country.

Read Across America is March 2 this year. http://www.seussville.com/CITH_50th/. Blackboard and like technologies.

Robert Manvel reported on a college course connection he is working on with Marist College, they are working on a collaborative project to use <http://www.sakaiproject.org/>

Steve S. asked why folks are using Moodle.com. Most report they had used Blackboard but the cost had gotten to high. BT is using Blackboard and is facing a price increase. They are looking at School Center and Angel. <http://angellearning.com/> . OCM BOCES is working on a statewide contract for Blackboard is another option that was discussed.

VI. Community Services and the DL Classroom.

Mike B. “The Firemen are on Fire” The emergency services are utilizing their DL system almost too much. He suggests that several members of any group be taught to use the room gear.

Eliz reviewed the premise of the “Sullivan County Collaborative Group” Discussion followed around how and who do BOCES charge for facility, equipment and technical use. Some do not charge at all, some charge private industry; basically, it is a per use decision.

Holly uses it for GED scoring trainers.

Robert Manvell mentioned the 4 County Chamber of Commerce connection.

Annual reviews are another way rooms are being utilized.

It was suggested that charges be called “room” charges so there are no audit issues; e-rate says you can not charge for what you are being re-reimbursed for.

Coach certification training. Carl Normandin section 10 athletic trainer does quite a bit of video conferencing.

Western NY wrestling officials meet over DL.

School boards, NYSBA, has a new facility with video conferencing capabilities.

Some are using it to connect to their local reps. and for annual reports.

Bus driver training will be offered in Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.

One suggestion was that subcommittees be formed to promote and manage these “other” initiatives.

Andrea T. reported on their grant with Polycom and Global Knowledge Exchange.

Brigham Young University has a list of NYS certified teachers available to teach such courses as Mandarin Chinese.

VII. Post-Secondary classes via DL

We talked at length how Colleges are using dl.

Various strategies are used to get college credit to the high school student.

Some BOCES have local colleges buying into their network, others are hosting courses.

VIII. Model Schools and DL

It seems that most of the BOCES are integrating Model Schools, Distance Learning and Video Conferencing under on directorship.

Others are adding Instructional Support to this responsibility.

Mike finds some synergies in various services in districts.

Jennifer reminded us that Jim Viola, the new Assistant Commissioner, reiterated what we were discussing regarding the merging/support of instructional support services.

IX. Reviewing DL Service Pricing

Some BOCES do not charge a base fee and this is presenting a problem in that they do not have support dollars to sustained the CoSer.

Shared Telecom covers some folk's line charges. Others fold line charges into the DL CoSer.

We talked about internal BOCES billing as well.

X. State-wide Connection Plans for DL, Possibilities/Roadblocks

A NAVS bid is being sent out for a TUT and High Visions type solution, for a four BOCES consortium. They are going to award both bids intending them to compete with each other regionally. This gives individual RIC's a choice but creates a comparative BID process.

Roadblocks: definitely are still provider services, variation in equipment schedulers and cost.

We talked about conferences. NYSCATE, NYSBA, T&L², NECC.

(<http://nyscate.org/>, <http://www.nyssba.org/ScriptContent/convention.cfm>,
<http://nsba.org/t+l/>, <http://web.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2006/>)

XI. Birds of a Feather

Instructional Breakout - Summary

Read Across America is scheduled for March 2, 2007. Several BOCES currently participate. Others are just sending the information out now.

We talked about doing an in-state collaborative similar to R.A.A. Mystery Quest Connection was suggested. We brainstormed ideas: Monday Friday connection, Max of 4 schools in a session etc. We agreed to work on this in January. Sullivan BOCES will coordinate the technical component with the other regions. <http://www.remc11.k12.mi.us/dl/proj.htm>

We talked about other school to school collaborative, like how to set up a video conference with another class. Staff development.

Remember to reply to all on the list serve.

Lance Ford a staff developer from Howe Public Schools, OK.

Bonnie Nizamus offered to connect us with other schools across the country that she has done workshops for. She is on the listserv.

Michelle Bartholomew shared a presentation package she had put together with video conference ideas.

Idea to do a poetry slam during poetry month.

Career speaker Ray Iassic is posted to the listserv by Holly is of interest to some of the other districts.

Holly suggested we look at resources within our own organizations for example; relatives and friends of colleagues may have interesting speakers. Calling major companies they will sometimes offer presentations.

We talked about how we keep in touch with districts, teachers and administration. Yahoo Groups was suggested by Tami.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>

Holly sets up groups in her email, Eliz uses an internal listserv.

Technical Break out – Summary

We talked about the innovative video conference equipment that is up and coming like a robot looking video conference unit that goes in the classroom and is controlled by a student outside the building. (i.e. in hospital, at home)

Why connect BOCES? Political roadblocks and Quality of Service are questions to be addressed.

Course scheduler, Mike bayba said that the statewide scheduler bid in place was an interesting competition between Renovo and General Data Comm. Genral data Comm was awarded the bid and seems to working fine.

There was discussion on using thumb drives instead of diskette drives on new PC's for student use. It is getting to diskette drives are an additional cost on new PC's.

We discussed the pros-cons of giving student email access for online courses.

We discussed whether projections screens were being used in stead of replacement TV's. In some situations the newer TV's won't fit into the cabinets set up for them.

We figure that High definition will have an impact on codecs and the scheduler in about three years.

If anyone has unneeded spare equipment put it on the listserv. Someone may be able to use it.

XII. Roundtable Discussion

Eliz asked if others are running into union issues when Journey through our state, was a collaborative project Sharon had participated in last year. She also reports that they were awarded the RUS Grant this year.

Ulster is doing some Professional Development support with Web casting through Illuminate.

MS live meeting server is another web cast solution if you want to only purchase time instead of licenses.

<http://www.microsoft.com/uc/livemeeting/default.aspx> Another product is Tandberg See and Share

http://www.tandberg.net/products/tms_download.jsp

Illinois online conference was recommended by Karen.

<http://www.ilonlineconf.org/>

Success by Six a Literacy series sponsored by the United Way is being supported through distance learning in the Jamestown area.

<http://www.uwbg.org/initiatives/successbysix>

Michelle Bartholomew asked what are the main reasons a tech would go out to a district to work on DL. We talked about how to control room gear. This led to a discussion of how to finance additional help in the traditional room.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18 and 19, 2007 in Binghamton.

Additional Supplies needed for next meeting?

TV/VCR/DVD player?

Agenda items for next meeting?

According to the sign in sheet the people listed below attended this meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>BOCES</u>
Abbatiello, Tony	Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES
Anderson, Mike	Orleans/Niagara BOCES
Atkins, Debra	Sullivan County BOCES
Bartholomew, Michelle	Broome-Tioga BOCES
Bayba, Mike	Erie 2 BOCES
Biazzo, Kris	Jefferson-Lewis BOCES
Elliot, Jeff	Questar III
Fancher, Tami	O-NC BOCES
Fenton, Steve	St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES
Fraley, Bob	Orange-Ulster BOCES
French, Jennifer	St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES
Hicks, Mike	Sullivan County BOCES
Hincapie, Karen	Ulster BOCES
Huggler, Liz	Sullivan County BOCES
Kaiser, Sharon	Genesee Valley BOCES
LaLande, Derek	Mohawk RIC
Manvell, Robert	Dutches County BOCES
Ouderkirk, Laurie	Oswego County BOCES
Sharp, Holly	Monroe 1 BOCES
Smith, Steve	Broome-Tioga BOCES/SCRIC
Sperano, Mike	Sullivan County BOCES
Sylofski, Mike	Albany BOCES
Tejedor, Andrea	Orange-Ulster BOCES