

**School & Library Network  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 2000**

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Reginald Palmer, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Greg Scott, Barry McCrum, Art Henry (for Barry Crommett)

Members Absent: John Vedral

1. Minutes. Minutes from the March 9, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Update on Governor's Technology Initiative. Gregg Scott reported that discussions are ongoing. There appears to be continuing interest in the endowment idea, but not of the size proposed by the Governor. A presentation was made to the Appropriations Committee last week at their request.
3. Status of ATM. Gregg Scott and Linda Lord reported that validation of the installations is continuing at 4 sites – 21 sites should be functioning by April. 30 more sites have expressed an interest in fall installation.
4. Circuit Riders. Brad Potter presented a proposal for extending the Circuit Rider Program for an additional year through June 2001 at a cost of \$219,000. After discussion, the Board agreed to recommend to the Commission that the extension be granted.
5. Work Session on Implementation of New Telecommunications Education Access Fund. Joanne Steneck distributed a list of design priorities/principles for the Board to consider. The Board agreed to use the principles as part of the consideration of the design of a new program. They include:
  1. Build on the successes of the current MSLN;
  2. Keep it simple so administrative expenses for schools and libraries, program administrator and carriers are as low as possible;
  3. Ensure each school and library has a usable level of connectivity to the Internet for as many students/patrons as practicable;
  4. Design State discounts to maximize potential contributions from federal E-Rate and other sources such as vendors, foundations, etc;
  5. Focus training on using the connection (updating software, connections, etc.) not on how to use in curriculum;
  6. Design in a manner so program is easily adapted from year to year depending on identified needs, funding availability, and changing technology; and

7. Further the legislative goal of making affordable computer-based information services and information networks available to as many Maine citizens as possible.
8. Universal Access – principle for “citizens” equal access.

Gerry Dube raised the question of whether a primary goal should be simply maintaining connectivity to the internet or whether maintaining a *network* that provides connection to the internet is of greater importance. It was generally agreed that there are advantages to maintaining a uniform network particularly for upgrading, maintenance and training. Ideas were discussed on how a network similar to the current system could be maintained using E-Rate and the State Fund, for those who are satisfied with it. DOE and the State Library will look into whether services could be obtained under a contract that would allow the state to submit a “blanket” application for E-Rate for T-1 or Frame Relay Service, including internet service. They also will look into activities, especially consortia, taking place in other states. Reggie Palmer suggested that because one of the purposes of the state law was to maximize E-Rate funds for the state, any discounts should be from the filed tariffed rates.

It was agreed that Joanne will develop a plan with a number of options for discussion at the next meeting. A draft plan and a rule implementing the plan will likely be put out for comment in June.

Reggie Palmer and Bill Black suggested that a short e-mail questionnaire be sent to technical coordinators to gather information on what they believe is needed. They will work on questions with Phil and have the results of the survey for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on May 10, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. in the Commission’s Hearing Room.