

**School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 1999**

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Reginald Palmer, Linda Lord, Ray Poulin,
Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Barry Crommet, Stephen Gilbert
Members Absent: Barry McCrum

1. Minutes. Minutes from the April 14, 1999 meeting were approved.

2. Status Report on Connections and Circuit Riders.

Art Henry reported that 180 sites (representing 152 schools and libraries) have applied for T-1 connection, with 129 installed as of June 8, 1999. Circuit Riders have visited 96 sites since January 1999. It was agreed that Gerry Dube will attend the next meeting to describe planning for sizing the network and costs. Circuit Rider representatives will also attend to describe activity in first two quarters of 1999.

3. E-Rate.

Ray Poulin explained that E-rate federal administrators sent all applicants a letter in May asking sites to verify that the information contained in the letter correctly indicated what the site had applied for. Notification of funding by "wave" notification was to begin in June but so far there have been no notifications. Ray noted the application process continues to be burdensome. Joanne mentioned recent information that 38 of 50 states paid in more for E-rate than they got out of the fund. No one has seen the support for these numbers; Linda Lord questioned how such numbers would be determined since the amount paid in by carriers is part of the general USF obligation. Barry Crommet said he would find out the source for the numbers and share that information with Board members.

4. New Legislation.

A general discussion was had about newly enacted Public Law 1999, Chapter 409, an Act to Enhance Access to Technology for Maine Schools and Libraries. Joanne noted that the law allows the Commission to assess telecommunication carriers beginning July 1, 2001. She asked whether the Board wanted to recommend to the Commission that it extend the current program for one year beyond June 2000, to fill any gaps between the current program and new funding to be available after July 1, 2001. All members voted to make such a

recommendation except Bill Black said he would have to check with the Public Advocate [Bill later reported that the Public Advocate was against such an extension and would file a separate letter stating his view].

Steve Gilbert stated his willingness to provide internet service for all schools and libraries at no charge. Joanne suggested he put his proposal in writing so the Board can discuss it and compare it to what Bell Atlantic currently pays the University of Maine for internet service.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bangor Public Library.