

**School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2000**

Members Present: Phil Lindley, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Greg Scott, Barry Crommett, Barry McCrum, Bill Black

Members Absent: Reginald Palmer, John Vedral

1. Minutes. Minutes from the July 26, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Status of ATM. 10 sites are fully validated and operational. Seventeen additional sites should be ready by the second week in September.
3. Task Force on the Maine Learning and Technology Endowment. Greg Scott reported on the members appointed to the Board. Their first meeting will be September 7, 2000.
4. Status of Federal E-Rate. Edna Comstock reported that additional awards were made in August, bringing the Maine total to \$2.994 million (compared to year one \$2.9 million; year two \$3.5 million).
5. Issues Related to Implementing The Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund.
 - a. Rule – Joanne reported that the rule went into effect on August 26, 2000.
 - b. RFP – Responses to the RFP are due on September 8, 2000. A Form 470 has also been posted. Vendors will be selected by October 1, 2000.
 - c. Education Campaign – Linda Lord distributed a letter sent to all schools and libraries explaining the expected process for next year. A second letter will be sent regarding applying for E-Rate. It was agreed that the letter should be posted on the MSLN website and other sites that reach the library and education communities.
 - d. Additional Libraries – It was agreed that a letter would be sent to these libraries to find out if any of them are eligible for E-Rate; some may be, such as the county law libraries. The Board will make a recommendation of funding level for these sites after further information is known on the cost under the contract.
 - e. POTS for Libraries – There was discussion about the need to continue a subsidy for POTs for libraries. Currently, MSLN subsidizes on average \$23 per line (libraries pay \$12 per line, up to two lines). After E-Rate is applied,

many libraries will have not much in excess of \$12 to pay. Gary will look at the impact on libraries of requiring sites to pay whatever is in excess of their E-Rate discount. Will be discussed again at the next meeting.

- f. Training and Computers – It was agreed that any recommendations about training and computers should await our estimate of how much it will cost to support internet connections. There was also general agreement that efforts in these areas will need to be coordinated with the outcomes from the Task Force on Maine Learning Technology Endowment. Gary pointed out that the benefits from the Endowment may be limited for libraries as the emphasis is on education and schools. He also questioned whether there was a need for support for upgrading computer equipment put in place over the last five years. Questions were raised about the progress of the Americorp program Goals which is conducting Internet training. Joanne said she would invite Kathleen Schultz, Program Director, to the next Board meeting for an update [Note: Kathleen has accepted].
- g. “Innovative and Technologically Advanced” – The Board discussed how to implement the requirement that a minimum of 25% of each annual program budget be devoted to targeted projects that are innovative and technologically advanced. It was generally agreed that there should be grant process where sites would make proposals for programs or offerings that meet a preestablished set of criteria/guidelines. Brainstorming on possible guidelines resulted in the following list (proposals with the following attributes would be viewed favorably):
- Potential to be replicated elsewhere – demonstration site
 - Use E-Rate, plus matching funds from other sources
 - Community based – involves others beyond individual school or library
 - Does not duplicate programs or services currently available
 - Coordination between schools and public libraries
 - Designed to be sustainable in the future

It was agreed that we would further work on these guidelines at the next meeting. Linda and Greg will provide models that could be used for the RFP process.

The next meeting will be October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission.