

EORC Meeting Minutes May 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell at 9:00 am.

Present: Chris Campbell, Chairman; Will Goodman, Vice Chairman; Ryan Zimmerle, Dale Layne, Jim Doramus, Scott Woolstenhulme and Andy Mehl.

Absent: Ann Joslin

Others Present: Michael Bartz, SDE; Mike Costa, SDE; Jo Ann Bujarski, SDE; Dylan Baker, Idaho Commission for Libraries, Todd Lawrence, SDE; Kate Haas, Kestrel West; Jason Kreizenbeck, Lobby Idaho; Decar Scaff, SDE, Roger Sargent, SDE.

The agenda was approved upon unanimous consent of the committee.

The motion was made by Mr. Layne to approve the minutes of February 27, 2017 as amended. Mr. Zimmerle seconded, motion carried.

There was a discussion on the proposed procedures manual. The committee suggested some changes; no decision was made.

Decar Scaff, the new Cybersecurity Coordinator for the State Department of Education, was introduced to the committee. Mr. Scaff can be used as a resource for districts on the topic of cybersecurity.

Mr. Baker said the library commission is currently finishing their 3rd and 4th quarter reimbursements. There are some appeals from libraries:

Bear Lake Library-

Bear Lake, which is a county library, had the incorrect amount listed on their 471. During the first and second quarters of this fiscal year, they were reimbursed for having expenses of \$200/month, but their invoices show their expenses are actually \$353/month. Since they are at a 70% E-rate level, the amount of 30% of \$153, is the difference between what they are actually paying and what they submitted they were paying. Mr. Goodman said the library has actually paid more money than they should have to the provider. Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion to pay the Bear Lake library at 30% of the \$200, which is what they submitted to USAC. Mr. Mehl seconded, motion carried. Mr. Goodman opposed the motion.

Garden Valley Library-

Mr. Baker said the library has a new director and there are two connections to the library, one for wired and one for wireless services. They do not have two locations, so both connections go to the same location. The library did not file for E-rate for one connection and it appears to be a redundant connection. Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion to deny the appeal, since they did not file for E-rate funding. Mr. Layne seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Lawrence gave an update on the E-rate status of the school districts for funding year 2017. He stated there are 116 funding requests, which equates to \$16.5 million. This is a good number for this time of the year since the 471 window is still open. There is \$8.8 million in category 1 and \$4.5 in category 2 funding that has been approved for funding year 2016.

Chairman Campbell discussed an update of legislation that would be of interest to members of the committee:

S1034a – this bill amends the statute for the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG). The FCC had an issue with one sentence in the original bill, which held up the approval of the state's matching program of \$2.7 million for broadband infrastructure special construction. This bill, with the sentence modification, has been signed and is in effect now since there was an emergency clause in the legislation.

There have been three BIIG applications submitted; South Lemhi School District, Forrest Bird Charter School and Twin Falls School District (which is a new school construction); all have been conditionally approved pending USAC approval. This application process is lengthier than Category 1 applications.

Chairman Campbell introduced Roger Sargent, who is the Wireless Program Manager for SDE.

Vice Chairman Goodman discussed the history of the wireless program.

There are currently three categories of wireless services for schools:

- Those who have managed services through the current contract
- Those who have their own wireless services, but received opt-out money so their wireless must be certified, and
- Those who do not have managed services and choose not to receive opt-out dollars

The program ends in about one year. **H186** authorizes the EORC to determine when the contract actually ends because not all districts received wireless services right away. In addition, does wireless become a K-12 project or does it stay 9-12? The EORC has a goal to have a plan in place before the legislature meets next January related to these questions. Chairman Campbell mentioned the Superintendent's budget proposal is due September 1, so the plan will have to be in place by then.

There was a discussion on whether some of the details of the wireless project should be discussed by a subcommittee of the EORC due to some members' time constraints or expertise limitations. **H186** specifically refers to school wireless, not libraries. If a subcommittee were created, any recommendations would be brought back to the full committee for decision-making. This potential subcommittee could make recommendations as to what the program would look like. There was a discussion of having the EORC members who are also Idaho Education Technology Association (IETA) members make-up the subcommittee. Four EORC members are members of IETA.

Chairman Campbell suggested a one-day meeting of the EORC for discussion of the wireless program, including current contract review and opt-out amounts. It was determined to schedule a meeting June 7 to discuss the history and current contract of the wireless program in more detail.

Mr. Bartz presented a survey that asked how many districts are using E-rate consultants the cost of these consultants. The total yearly cost statewide was \$312,000. There are different ways consultants are paid: some are a percentage of the E-rate funding, some charge different amounts as to whether their work is with Category 1 or 2 projects and some charge by amount of buildings.

The third and fourth quarter payments will be sent out together. The estimated yearly total for the state will be approximately \$785,000.

Mr. Bartz discussed bandwidth data collection. Forrest Bird Charter School allowed the SDE's trial version of a network-monitoring tool to be connected to Forrest Bird's internet. Several of the vendors use the same monitoring software. The software will show real-time bandwidth usage. This software can be configured so only school days and times are monitored. Currently, every vendor presents this information in different ways; this would give the state consistent information across all districts.

Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion to require eligible entities to make a good-faith effort to collect internet utilization data (bps/five-minute intervals) to be eligible to receive funding from the state. Mr. Goodman seconded, motion carried.

Opinions were provided to the committee by both the Attorney General's office and the Legislative Services Office that if the committee determines they would like to pay for WANs this year, they may do so.

Fifty-one districts have filed E-rate for Wide-Area Networks (WANs) and all have been funded by USAC. The estimated state portion after E-rate is \$1.6 million to fund all of the WANs for this current school year.

Nine districts said they have WANs, but did not file E-rate for them. Eight of those districts said their WANs are no cost. The Jerome School District has a cost of \$5,000/year.

Mr. Goodman made the motion to have the SDE, for this year, pay all WAN costs at the E-rate portion, up to a total of \$1.8 million statewide. Mr. Woolstenhulme seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion to create an appeals process for 100% reimbursement for districts which did not file E-rate because it was more fiscally responsible not to. Mr. Goodman seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Zimmerle made a motion to reimburse Idaho Falls the non-E-rate portion of their funding. Mr. Doramus seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Doramus made a motion to put in place the same appeals process for libraries. Mr. Woolstenhulme seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion to approve the appeal for Jerome School District to pay the non-E-rate portion of their funding, pending proper documentation. Mr. Mehl seconded, motion carried. Mr. Layne abstained.

Mr. Goodman said the SDE could communicate to the districts that in order to be reimbursed next year, they must apply for E-rate.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.