

Network Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes Monday, September 10, 2007

Committee Members

Present:

Lisa Smith, ACCESS
Dale Santangelo, ACCESS
Rich Denamen, ACCESS Board/MCESC
Kevin Stoklosa, Struthers
Joe Warchol, Columbiana ESC
John Hopkinson, Youngstown City
Phil James, Columbiana CCTC
Lisa Smith, ACCESS

Absent: Nate Aldridge, East Liverpool

Review of Last Meeting Minutes – no corrections.

Webwasher – Filter Categories

The committee reviewed several requests made by districts to modify the filter rules in place by opening sites (and even categories) that are blocked by policy. Many of these sites are tagged as “Game” sites. Although the sites may have some value for a district, they may not for all districts. Opening any sites up on the ACCESS filter policy will affect all districts.

After considerable discussion, it was recommended that other ITC’s be polled to determine how many of them require their districts to maintain their own filter policies through Delegated Administration. The new Webwasher product allows for Delegated Administration, i.e., the district can modify the filter category list to their liking, can block or allow any sites they wish to, and even create any authorized override accounts for their staff members as needed – without impacting other districts.

In order for ACCESS to comply with all district requests, it would require approximately 30 different policies to be in place having to be managed by ACCESS personnel. The committee felt this task was too much for the limited ACCESS staff to maintain effectively for the districts. Also, at this point, three school districts and one ESC have taken on Delegated Administration for their entities. Several more have also expressed interest.

After the polling information is compiled and reviewed, it will be shared with the ACCESS Board and Director for consideration along with a recommendation from the ACCESS Network Advisory Committee.

SSL Web VPN

The SSL Web VPN site – <https://webvpn.access-k12.org> – has been released for use. Many districts are now making formal requests for VPN accounts for their teachers. These accounts will allow teachers to reach the eSIS applications from outside the ACCESS network (home, etc.).

Email Client

Dale Santangelo shared with the group that there is a web-based client that can interface with our existing email system offered by Process Software (who supports our current email system). This client will provide many features presently not available, such as address books, etc. Dale is investigating the server needs at this time and hopes to have a server with the appropriate application up and running for testing in the near future. He will keep the committee updated.

Tech Meeting Schedule

The committee recommended that Tech Coordinator meetings be held every six weeks. The first meeting for this new school year was held on Wednesday, August 29, 2007. The meeting was well-attended. The next Tech Coordinator meeting will be on October 10, 2007

Network Advisory Committee – next meeting – Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the ACCESS conference room.