

Network Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2009

Present:

Lisa Smith, ACCESS
Dale Santangelo, ACCESS
Nate Aldrich, East Liverpool
John Hopkinson, Yo. City
Kevin Stoklosa, Struthers City (MCESC/Lowellville)

Absent:

Phil James, CCCTC
Rich Denamen, ACCESS Board
Joe Warchol, Columbiana ESC

The meeting began by reviewing the NAC Mission Statement found on the ACCESS website. The statement reads:

The mission of the ACCESS Network Advisory Committee is to address current concerns of its customers regarding the network, optimize services to the districts via the network, and provide information and direction that will impact future ACCESS Board decisions on the network.

Since the committee has not met for some time, a brainstorming session took place to identify any topics for discussion or areas of interest that may be investigated to optimize services to our districts per our Mission Statement. A brief overview of the discussion follows.

NAC Membership

Originally, the NAC was comprised of individuals appointed to the committee in an attempt to establish the committee in 2008. Some discussion took place regarding rotating membership. Lisa Smith stated that any policy change as to how members are seated would first need to be discussed with John LaPlante, Director and approved by the ACCESS Board. Those members present indicated a desire to continue serving on the NAC for the 2009-2010 year, if possible. Lisa will take ideas discussed to the Director and get back to the NAC with how best to handle membership.

Streaming Media (such as United Streaming)

The committee discussed streaming media, i.e., bandwidth consumption, bringing video sources within the ACCESS network, etc. At several Tech Coordinator Meetings, the suggestion was made that ACCESS host a United Streaming server. Lisa Smith shared her conversation with Rob Truslow at Campbell about a United Streaming server they have installed in-house. The suggestion was made that we utilize a survey tool to see how many districts would be interested in United Streaming services. Members felt that

if the service was available, perhaps more districts would take advantage of this resource. It was believed that John LaPlante surveyed districts in the past, so results of his inquiry will be obtained and shared with the committee.

Internet Filter Appliance

The committee asked about the possibility of switching Internet filter appliances this summer. Based on previously quoted costs, Webwasher/McAfee filter appliance costs for renewal were still being re-negotiated. If the cost remains too excessive for the ACCESS budget, ACCESS may be looking for another solution. John LaPlante and Lisa Smith are waiting for this information and a decision will be made sometime in June prior to the June 30, 2009 Webwasher/McAfee filter appliance expiration.

LDAP/Active Directory

Dale Santangelo shared ACCESS' intention of using LDAP/Active Directory when possible for its single sign-in capability for applications we provide that can use this technology. This will lessen the burden of users having to remember to many independent usernames and passwords. More information will be forthcoming.

WebVPN Portal

Positive feedback was received about the WebVPN Portal from committee members. Steps continue to be taken to make the best use of this portal for our users. Lisa Smith will look into acquiring a security certificate to avoid the many challenges when connecting via VPN.

Password Expiration

The committee discussed password expirations on accounts. Dale Santangelo shared the limitations of Microsoft Exchange at this point and ACCESS' attempt to utilize a third-party application to help with the expiration notices sent to users prior to expiration.

The next meeting for the NAC will most likely be in September 2009. More information about a meeting time will be shared via email.

The meeting was adjourned.