

Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Date and Time: December 17, 2012, 2 PM – 4 PM

Location: NCAE, Raleigh NC

Attendees were: Eric Senter, Andy Bryan, Aaron Fleming, Emma Swift (standing in for Christopher Cody), Marlo Gaddis, Jan Richardson, Jodi Alverson, Elizabeth Grovenstein, Linda Suggs, Dan Gwaltney, Don Phipps, Catherine Baker, Tom Williams, Todd Wirt, Jason Atkinson, Carey Edens. Attending via webinar were: Mark Wiles, Alisa Chapman, Debra Horton, Russell Dixon, Scott Smith, Demond McKenzie, Emily Doyle, Rebecca Reagan, Beth Folger.

From the NC DPI, attendees were: Rebecca Garland, Angela Quick, Sarah McManus, Vanessa Jeter, Adam Levinson, Rosalyn Galloway, George Batten, Kathy Newbern, Dan Gwaltney, LaVerne Weldon, Ian Verhaeghe, Mike Martin, and Kayla Siler.

Agenda Overview and Welcome

Angela Quick provided an overview of the agenda.

Rebecca Garland recognized the importance of the group and thanked all attendees.

Angela provided an update regarding the name change from IIS to Home Base and that PowerSchool is also part of Home Base. She also stated that Home Base was shared with principals and teachers at the READY meetings. Slides about Home Base are included in the presentation and can be shared with others as members talk about Home Base.

Update on Content Resources, Tagging & Vetting

Sarah McManus provided an update on where resources will be found for Home Base and shared the review site where teachers will be invited to review the resources.

Staff at Center for Urban Affairs are tagging resources. The fields being tagged were shared and discussed.

Sarah mentioned that the staff at Center for Urban Affairs are using the Achieve OER Rubric for determining the quality of resources. Angela clarified that the rubrics are not just for NC, but are for national use.

Sarah and Angela stressed the importance of tagging to aid in sharing with other states.

North Carolina is aligned with the Learning Resource Metadata Initiative (LRMI) which is a schema for tagging that many states are using.

Teacher Perspective

Catherine Baker presented information about her review of the resources. She stated that there were short videos, lesson plans, units, and projects. She liked the variety and the quality.

***Action Item: Sarah will ensure all members have access to the review system to review the content that will be available in Home Base.**

Demo

Sarah stated that monthly webinars on Home Base are provided for teachers.

Dan Gwaltney provided a sampling of the webinar by demoing some of the functionality related to attendance, gradebook and student profile.

***Action Item: Provide access to Power Source so that members may go through training modules.**

NC General Assembly's Legislative Research Commission

Angela Quick gave an update on the Commission activities since the last meeting.

Conversation points from room on Findings and Recommendations (Dec. 13th document passed/emailed around):

Elic Senter: The State should introduce sustained regional, face-to-face and digital PD and professional training for teachers to use new technologies (software and hardware).

Todd Wirt: There should be digital training and classes. Youtube could be a mechanism for delivery.

Marlo Gaddis: Local technical support should be available to provide coaching for teachers on a consistent basis.

Andy Bryan: There should be 10 – 15 minute videos available for training teachers. Camtasia software could be used. Using a blended model is critical.

Rebecca Garland: There must be communication about the importance of new technologies to parents. The State needs to effectively communicate so that parents will understand that they are participants in the process of making learning and use of digital technologies a much larger part of their children's education.

Andy Bryan: It is important to communicate these ideas and critical points to teachers, as teachers have the direct link to parents. Teachers are champions in direct communication.

Tom Williams: Philosophies about what we believe about kids is the same philosophy we should have towards adults. Respecting children's and adults' time and capacity with regard to PD and training is very important.

Don Phipps: It is essential to provide / ensure equitable access to technologies for all students and households. One concern is that there are parts of eastern NC, where 30-40% of the population may NOT have internet access at home, which will result again in the "haves and have-nots" with children.

Jason Atkinson: It is critical to communicate to vendors that the entire State is moving in this direction. If all school systems use Home Base across the state, we could help to drive vendors' prices down. There is power in numbers.

Rebecca Garland: It is critical to not wait until all have access (internet at household level, etc.) in order to move forward but rather move forward while at the same time helping those who do not have access along the way.

Todd Wirt: Discussed tablet innovations. Tablets are provided as a subscription – tablet, content, assessments, access, 3G, 4G, etc.

Marlo Gaddis: We need to communicate to teachers what these innovations actually mean and look like for them and also include this information within the professional development.

***Action Item: Explore statewide purchasing of devices. One strategy would be to meet with vendors and discuss some hypothetical situations to determine what specifications would be needed to include in a request for proposals.**

Updates:

Vanessa provided a Home Base handout and discussed the reason for moving to the name Home Base.

Vanessa also mentioned that a communications plan is being put together that the group should review and provide input.

***Action Item: Vanessa will post the Home Base handout on the web and send the draft Communications Plan to the group to review and provide feedback.**

Looking Forward

Next Home Base External Advisory Committee meeting is February 21, 2013 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Location: TBD

Items for next Agenda:

1. Criteria for pilots for mid-2013
2. Updates:
 - a. Digital Learning Commission's recommendations
 - b. Assessment Content
 - c. Progress at State level for procurement of devices exploration
3. Potentially a demo of the available IIS components of Home Base