

## **Home Base External Stakeholder Committee Notes**

**Date and Time: Thursday, February 21, 2013**

Location: NCAE, Raleigh NC

Attendees were: Alisa Chapman, Matthew Etherington, Aaron Fleming, Marlo Gaddis, Elizabeth Grovenstein, Terri Mozingo, Eric Senter, Linda Suggs, Tom Williams, Todd Wirt.

Attending via webinar were: Jodi Alverson, Jason Atkinson, Christopher Cody, Elaine Franklin, Darrin Hartness, Debra Horton, Adam Levinson, Teresa Daye, Marian Dillahunt, Don Phipps, Rebecca Reagan, Jan Richardson, Scott Smith.

From the NCDPI, attendees were: Rebecca Garland, Philip Price, Angela Quick, Adam Levinson, Sarah McManus, Vanessa Jeter, Rosalyn Galloway, Ben Comer, Cynthia Crowder, Mike Martin, Robin McCoy, Kayla Siler, Dan Gwaltney and LaVerne Weldon.

### **Agenda Overview and Welcome**

Sarah provided updates about the project scope, including test data, curricular content, standards sets, training/PD, assessment content and integrations.

Pearson will be providing training and working on integrations with all Pearson products.

### **Update on Integrations**

Sarah explained that Next Generation item banks will be coming through in batches in the next year or so and will be phased in over time.

Ben gave updates on the system implementation work. The State will not be integrating local third-party applications like Achievement Series into Home Base. There are opportunities to pull content into the learning object repository. As for connecting other local applications to Home Base, NCDPI is able to integrate content into the LOR. In some cases for districts that do not adopt the system's LMS, they will be able to integrate their existing LMS (Moodle, etc.). There most likely will be individual costs associated with doing that. There is general interest and enthusiasm about cost sharing. For instance, Discovery Ed is something that could be bought and maybe integrated.

Todd Wirt asked what item banks will be available at the start of next school year. Sarah responded that ClassScape and district items would be available right away. Angela stated that NWEA items as well will be available at rollout though the Next Generation items will not be available until a little thereafter. The Next Generation Common Core assessment items will have a more phased-in approach. At this point, NCDPI doesn't know how large that item bank is but will have that information soon.

Terri asked for clarification on Ben's point about integration. Ben reiterated that the State is not integrating local third-party applications but LEAs can potentially migrate content from LMSs to Home Base or integrate their LMSs. If you want to migrate, then the Cloud Team is willing to help and work with Pearson to migrate classes and content.

Sarah discussed the user interface slide and explained how all the product pieces work together, as indicated by the chart on the "IIS Data Flow" slide. Sarah continued explaining how teachers and districts can create their own curriculum and choose to share or not share. All will be options.

### **Updates on Assessment Data**

Sarah spoke about how LEAs or charters can contract with Pearson to get data in from a system being currently used or users can extract and pull that in themselves. If data is coming from item banks, then they can bring items in as well.

Tom Williams asked about whether there is the intent to survey the districts to see what they are using. Sarah affirmed that we are working with the Resource Consortium about content and gave the example of Discovery Ed.

### **Updates on Cost-Sharing**

Sarah mentioned that during a visit with Lee County they asked if schools/districts bought in for more than one year, could the cost be less? Philip will take these types of things into consideration. George Batten has gone out to see what LEAs can replace with their systems. Ideally LEAs would save money to move to Home Base by moving from current subscriptions to Home Base. The Home Base team will share the results with this group and the field once that is available.

Questions from webinar participants addressed cost-sharing and communication tools like Blackboard Connect and Alert Now.

**Action Item 1:** Cynthia will pull those questions and get them to the appropriate people and/or publish the answers.

### **Demo**

Mindy Sinyak did a demo from the administrative portal.

Mindy showed how reports are configurable and how users can create custom reports. The system allows a user to slice and dice data in many different ways. In trainings in other states, the Pearson team learned that many administrators want reports to be easy, so there is a report bank which allows the state to create reports and push them down to districts and contextualize them. Likewise, districts can create reports and push

them down to schools. For example, a query built once can capture information for each school.

### **Questions and Answers on LEA Control**

Angela indicated that data will be at LEA level, and they'll have control of it. They do not have to call DPI or the central office to get the data they need, which will be helpful because there is no delay. Sarah noted that users can see actual assessment items.

Matthew Etherington asked whether data can be pulled into a report for parents and students. Mindy affirmed that they can pull classroom assessments into a report home for parents. In addition, they can customize and choose different layouts and download to Excel.

### **Questions Concerning Access**

Parent and students can see benchmarks and performance.

Terri Mozingo: Wondered if it would be good to adopt Home Base versus a data warehouse and suggested it would be useful to have crosswalks so her district could look at the implications of using Home Base versus a local data warehouse. Her staff are building files and views, and they may not have to.

Tom Williams: Regarding student and parent access, he asked whether there is a state standard or is it district choice. Mindy clarified that right now such standards are in design sessions. At the current time, all are set at the state level, and the state determines the standards with LEA and charter input.

Williams indicated that some superintendents are talking about not offering parent access to lesson plans. Angela responded that that's a local operational policy decision.

Alissa Chapman asked about new teacher and principal preparations and whether there has been any discussion about access from private and public, like the schools of education. Angela indicated that no decisions have been made about that at this time. She gave an example where NCDPI frontloaded some of the burden by teaching Reading 3D in teacher preparation programs statewide and stated that planning IHE awareness sessions needs to be part of the communications plan.

### **Additional Demo**

Mindy demonstrated Pearson's Online Learning Exchange (OLE) content.

Terri Mozingo: How would NCDPI advise LEAs about subscriptions?

Angela: We will not have every answer to every software question immediately. She suggested that if a district or charter is working on a major subscription to let NCDPI know.

Philip doesn't think that the State will have an answer by March. NCDPI recently sent out a communication about what Home Base will offer so that LEAs and charters can compare. For 2013-2014, Philip suggests not subscribing for more than a year.

Additional questions concerning integration were answered as follows:

- Next Generation Science Standards are at least 3 years away.
- OLE (Science and Social Studies content) – starts at 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- PowerSchool can connect to the K-2 School Report Card. PowerSchool will have a template to assist.
- Ben: Part of the power of Home Base is the integration between PowerSchool and the IIS. The student and parent portals are integrated.

### **Timeline and Training**

Ben reviewed the timeline slides. Of note is that year-round schools (220 schools) are the “pilots,” or phase one, beginning in July 2013. The State will have one week to train the year round schools.

Rosalyn explained that NCDPI is working on a template to be provided for report cards. Districts and charters can create their own but Home Base will also have useful templates available. There are also templates on PowerSource. Teachers and LEA/charter staff have access to PowerSource. NCDPI has been getting great feedback from the districts and are also in the process of training districts. Districts decide who is being trained (asst. principal, data manager, instr. facilitator, etc.)

Marlo asked for clarification about the June 1st scheduling deadline. If a district has *any* school that is a year round school, you must do scheduling by May 1. Scheduler Training will happen in the fall.

### **Action item 2: The next meeting will address combined training and Summer Institutes.**

Angela moved the meeting ahead to cost since cost has been such a big question.

### **Cost Sharing**

Phillip discussed ways to communicate about cost-sharing. First, districts and charters are getting a far superior system than any currently in NC made up of five integrated systems: PowerSchool. IIS Pearson. IIS PCG. Equella. IAM (identify access management – helps connect with a single sign-on.) Secondly, the State has never talked about a completely freesolution.

The fundamentals of the cost-sharing model are:

- The network needs to be able to manage all the technologies.
- Districts and charters need to be able to handle the devices. Locals are responsible for that (Network, infrastructure, devices, support of devices). The cost-share model shares the cost between the LEAs and the State.
- It is costing 27million dollars to develop the system, and there is no cost share for development, training, and delivery.
- The ongoing maintenance operation and support will cost about \$16 million. It takes \$21 million in recurring costs to keep it all going. The State is able to identify recurring resources such that all but \$6 million of the \$21 will be covered. This lines up with the amount of money that NCDPI is paying to cover content.
- The State is looking to get the \$6 million funded through the General Assembly.
- NCDPI has not finalized the cost-sharing model. The goal is to keep costs for LEAs below \$3-4 dollars/ADM. There are no recurring costs associated with Race to the Top. In the short term, not being in Home Base will not increase the rate per student (because of the use of Race to the Top funds).

Additional suggestions for communicating about cost-sharing were:

- Show the products mapped to the overall function – instead of saying Equella say Instructional Content. Crosswalk of data functionality against current data management practices.
- Moving money into the Cloud, much like the cloud cost savings, is a way to message about cost-sharing.
- Consider visiting schools of Ed to introduce Home Base.
- MClass: having the data upload happen at a state level is in the workplan.
- Drop the acronyms (SIS, IIS, etc.). There are too many.
- Lottery Money: potentially there is \$5 million dollar to help pay for Home Base. The General Assembly sees the connection.

**Next Steps:**

NCDPI needs to know exactly how many items will be available and what the coverage will be for grade levels, number of items per standard, etc. More Broadly, NCDPI needs to be clear about and communicate what will Home Base not do or provide. For Next Generation, NCDPI needs to know when they will be available.

**Action Item 3:** Include the following on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Timeline, Training, and 2013-14 Rollout
  - Summer Institutes
- LEA Engagement

- Discuss how outside applications may start to link in, e.g. Achievemnet series, Thinkgate, etc., and whether that work will be labor intensive

Updates:

- Digital Learning Commission's recommendations
- Progress at State level for procurement of devices exploration

**Action Item 4:** Cynthia will post minutes and slides on the Home Base website.