

**School & Library Network  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2001**

Members Present: Phil Lindley, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Ed Gomes for Greg Scott, Barry Crommett

Members Absent: Scott Thibeau, Barry McCrum, Reginald Palmer, Bill Black

1. Minutes. Minutes from the November 14, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Treatment of Sites Sharing an ATM Connection. Ray Poulin and Bill Lowell asked the Board about whether additional support from the MTEAF could be provided for those schools that have eliminated their 56 or T-1 connection and connected their elementary or junior high school to their high school's ATM connection. As the program is currently designed, the high school would receive federal E-Rate and \$358 from MTEAF toward its ATM, but the other sites would receive no support. Because connecting through the ATM is more efficient as it reduces traffic on MSLN and decreases network support costs, the Board agreed that it would recommend that the Commission authorize the MTEAF to continue to provide funding equivalent to a 56 Kbps or T-1 (whichever one the individual site was eligible for) when taken together does not exceed the cost of ATM.
3. Update on Task Force on the Maine Learning and Technology Endowment. Ed Gomes reported that the Task Force agreed unanimously on a report to the Legislature recommending that a mid-client device be purchased with endowment funds for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, to be owned by the school. The wireless hubs necessary for access to the Internet would likely be purchased with funds remaining from MSLN. The program would begin in the 2002-2003 school year.
4. Status of Applications for Federal E-Rate. Edna Comstock reported only 32 school sites failed to respond to the request to designate the Department of Education to apply for Federal E-Rate. Around 30 sites do not participate in the Federal school lunch program. This means they will only be eligible for a minimum 20% Federal discount. It was agreed that these sites will be required to determine the income levels of their students by alternative means as permitted in the Federal E-Rate program, before they receive MTEAF in 2002-2003.
5. Status of Contracts with Verizon and UNET. Linda Lord reported the contracts have been agreed to and are awaiting approval by the State Bureau of Purchases.
6. Filtering. There was a general discussion about recent Federal enactments that require all schools and libraries receiving Federal E-Rate to certify that they are using blocking or filtering technology that blocks access to certain visual

depictions (i.e., for adults and minors, visual depictions that are obscene and child pornography and for minors depictions that are "harmful to minors"). The FCC is required to enact rules implementing these provisions (expected by April 2001). According to Federal law, schools and libraries receiving Federal E-Rate in this upcoming year (year four of the program) will be required to certify by October 28, 2001 that they either have blocking or filters in place or that they are working towards having them in place. By Federal E-Rate year five, schools and libraries must certify they are in full compliance. The American Library Association along with a number of other groups is challenging the law in court. The Board agreed that for now we will proceed with all current plans for applying for Federal E-Rate and wait and see what happens at the FCC and in the courts. There will likely be similar state legislation.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, at the Commission.