

**School & Library Network  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2001**

Members Present: Phil Lindley, Linda Lord for Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Ed Gomes for Greg Scott, Barry Crommett; Scott Thibeau, Reginald Palmer, Bill Black

Members Absent: Barry McCrum

1. Minutes. Minutes from the January 10, 2001 meeting were approved.
2. Report and Discussion on Circuit Riders. Sonja Fongemie reported on the activity of the three circuit riders during the year 2000. Over the past two years, the circuit riders have made 686 on-site visits, 1519 phone contacts and 1378 e-mail responses. They reported that a great deal of activity results from the turnover of technical coordinators at small libraries and elementary schools. They also have received more calls from individual teachers seeking assistance. Sonja submitted a proposal to continue the circuit rider service from July 1, 2001 – 2002. The same mission would continue: focusing on sites with most service problems and least resources and fostering self-sufficiency. Additional tasks include providing advice on security and assisting sites with Federal E-Rates applications. The current contract provides for payment of \$219,000 per year. The proposal includes a 5% increase to \$229,950. The Board will discuss the proposal at its next meeting.
3. Update on Task Force on Maine Learning Technology Endowment. The Task Force presented its report to the Education Committee and is making a presentation this week to the Appropriations Committee.
4. Status Report on Connections. Art Henry reported that there are currently 1,110 connections; 662 56 Kbps frame relays, 305 T1s; 34 ATM, 105 AEVs. For next year Art expects 350 T1s and 50 ATM. Art also reported that of the 247 schools with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 71 have 56s, 24 AEV and remaining 142 already have T1s. If the laptop proposed goes through as currently proposed, these schools will require a T1 connection beginning September 2002.
5. Status of Application for Federal E-Rate. Edna Comstock reported that the state application was filed January 18, 2001. The FCC has set no dates for when it expects to announce awards. Over \$5.5B in requests have been received. Available funding is currently capped at \$2.5B. Our application is in the Telecom category. In the past, this category has been 100% funded. The FCC will also be recommitting funds not spent from years one and two. This will make some additional funds available. Edna discussed a number of unresolved issues. The state needs to submit a consortium technology plan by June 30, 2001. Edna will provide a draft by the next meeting. It was agreed that a letter needs to be sent to all sites explaining the changes and new processes in effect after July 2001.

6. Status of Contracts with Verizon and UNET. The UNET contract has been signed. The Verizon contract is still awaiting approval from Bureau of Purchases.
7. Update on Filtering. Linda Lord explained the Federal filtering law and the fact that sites need to certify by October 2001 that they are pursuing filtering. Maine libraries have joined the national ACLU suit seeking to overturn these requirements. The suit has not yet been filed. When filed, they will seek a stay. A filtering bill has also been introduced in Maine. Gary reported a hearing has not yet been scheduled. These activities will continue to be monitored.
8. Update on Cost of MSLN. Art Henry reported that Verizon project total spending on the project by June 30, 2001 of \$11,936,096 and interest accumulated since June 2000 of \$685,000. This will leave a balance of \$8.750M.
9. Verizon Transition Process. Art Henry reported on the tasks that must be undertaken by Verizon before July 1, 2001. These include making final payments to subcontractors and the independent telephone companies; converting the five sites that receive access by voice grade business lines to 56 Kbps connections; contacting all sites that appear to have low or no activity; developing a list of sites that currently have a 56 or T1 that did not apply for Federal E-Rate (and were eligible for Federal E-Rate). They will need to be contacted about having to pay for the service after July 1 or have it removed. Art will update on these items at the next meeting.
10. Planning for Recommendation to Commission on Spending Levels for July 2001 – June 2002 and other Program Refinements. Joanne Steneck will put together a draft for discussion at the next meeting describing all the recommendations we need to make to the Commission for implementation by July 1. This includes a recommendation on the amount (up to .5% of intrastate revenues) that needs to be collected from carriers to operate the MSLN as projected. If the Federal E-Rate application is fully funded, it is expected that \$2.2M in state e-rate will be needed to provide 100% funding. Additional funds will be needed for administration (primarily fiscal agent); circuit riders, and support for telephone service for libraries. Based on 1999 intrastate revenues .5% will produce \$3.1M (.7M must be reserved for technologically advanced projects). It was agreed that we should recommend that the maximum allowable amount be collected by carriers.
11. Other. Linda Lord reported that 110 libraries qualified for a Gates Foundation grant awarding one to four new computers, software, training and tech support for one year. An additional 60 libraries qualify to purchase a computer for \$2,800, with the free software and support. A list of qualifying sites appear at [www.state.me.us/msl/gateslist.htm](http://www.state.me.us/msl/gateslist.htm).

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's Conference Room C.