

**School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2000**

Members Present: Phil Lindley, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Greg Scott, Barry Crommett, Bill Black

Members Absent: John Vedral, Barry McCrum, Reginald Palmer

1. Minutes. Minutes from the October 4, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Update on Task Force on the Maine Learning and Technology Endowment. Greg Scott reported on the last meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force members are still gathering information and plan to meet four more times before the end of the year.
3. Education Campaign on Federal E-Rate. Edna Comstock described the mailings sent to all schools and libraries on October 20, 2000 (in hot pink envelopes) asking sites to return a letter of agency to Edna by November 15, 2000, to allow for the blanket Federal E-Rate application. The Form 471 window closes on January 18, 2000. It was agreed that Verizon would assist Edna in telephoning those sites that do not respond. A series of informational meetings have also been scheduled from November 6 – November 20, to answer questions about MSLN and the application process.
4. Status of Contracts with Verizon and UNET. Linda reported she was working on drafts of the contracts and expected them to be agreed upon in the next few weeks.
5. Treatment of Libraries Not Eligible for E-Rate. Edna reported that, after reviewing the federal requirements for eligibility, she did not believe there would be very many libraries that were ineligible. It was agreed that at least for the first year, MSLN would continue to provide financial support for a basic connection for all sites currently participating in MSLN, including those libraries ineligible for Federal E-Rate.
6. \$12 Lines for Libraries. There was discussion about continuing the current policy of allowing libraries to pay only \$12.00 per month, per line, for up to two POTs lines. There was general agreement about continuing this policy, but it is difficult to find efficient ways to implement this after the Federal discount is applied. It was generally agreed that a one-time annual payment (likely \$100) from the fiscal agent for each library would be a fair replacement for the \$12.00 line. This would provide a subsidy without incurring administrative time and expense. Each library would then pay the tarriffed rate less the Federal E-Rate discount. The Board will discuss further at the next meeting.

7. “Innovative and Technologically Advanced” Criteria. It was generally agreed that any planning in this area should await the recommendation of the Task Force on Maine Learning and Technology Endowment. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on January 10, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission’s Hearing Room.