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TECHNICAL PANEL
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 9:00AM
Varner Hall - Board Room
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE
MINUTES

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MEMBERS PRESENT:
Walter Weir, CIO, University of Nebraska, Chair
Christy Horn, University of Nebraska
Jayne Scofield, OCIO, State of Nebraska
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Michael Winkle, NET

ROLL CALL, MEETING NOTICE & OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Mr. Weir called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on March 4, 2014. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on March 7, 2014. Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the south wall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014 MINUTES

Mr. Langer moved to approve the February 11, 2014 minutes as presented. Ms. Horn seconded. Roll call vote: Scofield-Yes, Horn-Yes, Langer-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Winkle-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS

Project Update – NDE, Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)
Valorie Foy, John Moon, and Brent Gaswick, Nebraska Department of Education

Ms. Foy provided the report. The project contractor is Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). The new engine is called INSIGHT and has been updated. The writing test program is a new system. Currently, approximately 98% of students are taking the writing assessment online. English as a Second Language and special needs students, or students who are in a facility where online testing is not available are taking the paper assessment test. In the writing assessment test, the project found there was no loss of text due to the outage but that the tab formatting did lose some text. The January outage which was reported in the Lincoln newspaper was due to an issue at DRC. The program now has a load tester. The project has been working with the ESU Network Operations Consortium and Network Nebraska. DRC did testing with OPS and LPS. White screens were due to wide-area network in the schools. Caching at the school level was also an issue. The schools servers sit in the school districts and not at the state. DRC along with NDE is investigating the error reports for Testing Site Manager (TSM), the replacement caching system for Local Caching System (LCS), in the Updated INSIGHT engine. The project has a communication system set up with the school districts.

The panel members were given an opportunity to ask questions or provide input.
- The project needs to consider the user's experience and psychological affect as well not only the technical issue. Testing has not gone as well as expected.
- It appears that the TSM has issues whenever changes needed to be made.
- Ms. Horn expressed accessibility concerns with the test. Braille is available but some students do not read braille. Ms. Horn recommended the project look at accommodations such as taped text books for the testing.

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- Has any consideration been given to putting the assessment testing on Network Nebraska?
- DRC has been helpful in the remediation process. DRC is handling the whole project now with no subcontractors.
- Should some aspects of the project really be noted as "yellow" rather than "green"?
- Final payment has not been made to the vendor.
- It was recommended that the project complete the Lessons Learned Form for Phase 1 of the project.

Ms. Foy thanked Lincoln Public Schools, Omaha Public Schools and Millard Public Schools districts for assistance. The user experience has been a priority concern. She stated that there are a lot of states going to online testing and that Nebraska is farther along than most.

Voluntary Review Project Closure*- Nebraska State Patrol, AFIS Upgrade

Mr. Weekly reported that the project began voluntarily reporting last June. The project went live in December. The project reported the following lessons learned:
What went wrong?
- Few milestones were not met
- Final completion was 2 weeks late due to java issues
What went right?
- Great communication
- Clearly defined implementation plan including buy-in and expectations
- Biweekly status meetings and then to weekly as go-live date neared

The project stated the form was easy to fill out and recommended that the form be online.

Mr. Winkle moved to designate the AFIS Upgrade project as a "closed" project. Ms. Horn seconded. Roll call vote: Winkle-Yes Scofield-Yes, Horn-Yes, Langer-Yes, Weir-Yes, and. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Project Status Dashboard
Andy Weekly

There were 8 project updates reported. The status of these projects remained the same. Mr. Weekly provided a brief overview of each project. Lessons learned have been compiled. There is a linkon the Technical Panel's website.

INCOMMON PILOT PROJECT UPDATE
Mike Danahy (via conference phone) and Scott Isaacson

The overall goals of the project are to make technology more accessible, easier to use, easier to manage and make it more secure. Identity management definition consists of three components:
- Authentication (are you who you say you are?)
- Personal data (what do we know about you? name, role(s) in your organization, other defining information)
- Authorization (what are you allowed to access?)
Independent user accounts have been set for different services available. Almost all school districts and higher educational institutions have their own file servers. Attempts to consolidate information all in one location is challenging. Before the concept of confederation was being considered, the Educational Service Unit technical staff decided to establish an LDAP Work Group. The vision of the LDAP Work Group was to link directory systems statewide and to develop common schema extensions and practices to consolidate identities. There are some single sign-on systems in the state.

The InCommon Pilot Project has reached national recognition. Nebraska is one of eight K-12 pilot states exploring and defining what InCommon membership will look like for K-12 institutions. Currently, the

University of Nebraska has four campuses and Central Administration that are InCommon participants. There are initial conversations with Wayne State, Northeast and Southeast Community Colleges. There are five Educational Service Units and four service providers identified to test federation. The federation idea builds on the concept of a common framework of trust without matching up directories. Directories can be different but have agreed upon attributes and requirements. Security is vital and needs a high degree of collaboration with K-12 and higher institutions. Partnerships and collaboration are important building blocks.

Lincoln Public Schools and ESU2 are doing service provider testing. Mr. Weir commended Mr. Danahy and Mr. Isaacson for their work.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Waivers - Revoke waivers which are no longer needed due to changes to NITC 8-301: Password Standard.*

Mr. Hobbs indicated that because the password standard was revised recently, several previously granted password waivers could be revoked: (1) Game & Parks waiver granted on January 8, 2008; (2) Department of Correctional Services waiver granted on April 8, 2008; (3) Kronos Steering Committee waiver granted on February 14, 2012; and (4) Department of Correctional Services waiver granted on September 10, 2013.

Mr. Winkle moved to revoke the four waivers. Ms. Horn seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Winkle-Yes Scofield-Yes, Horn-Yes, and Langer-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

TECHNICAL PANEL MEMBERSHIP - RECOMMENDATION TO THE NITC*

Rick Golden, Alternate for Walter Weir on the Technical Panel is retiring. Mr. Weir nominated Donald Mihulka, Associate Chief Information Officer for the University of Nebraska. Mr. Mihulka is currently with the University of Nebraska-Computing Services Network and has been with the University of Nebraska for over 30 years**.**

Ms. Horn moved to recommend approval of Donald Mihulka as Walter Weir's alternate on the Technical Panel. Mr. Langer seconded. Roll call vote: Langer-Yes, Horn-Yes, Scofield-Yes, Winkle-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

WORK GROUP UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

There were no work group updates.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the NITC Technical Panel will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

With no further business, Mr. Weir adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Rick Becker of the Office of the CIO/NITC.