



**Meeting Agenda
March 2, 2015**

**DAS-BEST, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut
Conference Room 1008
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.**

Members In Attendance:

Nick Caruso, Senior Staff Associate, CT Association of Boards of Education
John Elsesser, Town Manager, Town of Coventry, CT Council of Small Towns
Russell Feinmark, Speaker of the House
Kathy Giotsas, West Haven Library, CT Library Association
Judy Greiman, President, CT Conference of Independent Colleges
Rich Mavrogeanes, President Pro Tem of the Senate
James Mindek, Connecticut State Department of Education
Scott Shanley, General Manager, Town of Manchester, CT Conference on Municipalities
William Vallee, State Broadband Policy Coordinator, Consumer Counsel
John Vittner, Director, Office of Policy and Management
Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, CT State Library
Scott Zak, Director of IS Applications, Board of Regents

Alternates in Attendance:

Scott Taylor, Connecticut Education Network (CEN), UConn

Others in Attendance:

Brynn Deprey, Connecticut Education Network (CEN), UConn
Jennifer March-Wackers, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Members Absent:

Tom Dillon, Founder, Flagship Networks, Speaker of the House
Jeff Kitching, Superintendent Plainville Community Schools, Office of the Governor
Mark Raymond, Commission Chair, Chief Information Officer, Dept. of Administrative Services
Michael Mundrane, Chief Information Officer, University of Connecticut
Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectman of Somers, Minority Leader of the Senate
Catherine Smith, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development
Bart Stanco, Chief Information Officer, The Gartner Group, Office of the Governor

Alternates not in Attendance:

Dawn Lavalley, Connecticut State Library
Jim Watson – Department of Economic and Community Development

On Monday, March 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., a meeting of the Connecticut Commission for Education Technology was held at DAS-BEST, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. On behalf of CIO Mark Raymond, the meeting was called to order by John Vittner at 1:07 p.m. The following was discussed:

- **Welcome.** John Vittner welcomed the participants to the meeting and explained that he would be serving as moderator for this meeting; Mark Raymond was called to testify to the Legislature.

Judy Grieman shared that she was the original Chair of this Commission when it was founded by the Legislature in 2000. She is now resigning to take a new job opportunity out of state. She will be delegating her role on this committee to her current VP. The group collectively offered their congratulations and wished her good luck on her new venture. On behalf of CIO Mark Raymond, John Vittner thanked her for all her accomplishments and contributions.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2014.** A motion to accept the minutes as written was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
- **CEN Status Report:** Scott Taylor distributed and reviewed the CEN Update Report (attached).
 - Events
 - Circuits, Metrics and New Connections
 - Pricing Review Engagement
 - Newsletter
 - **Questions:**

Funding: Scott Taylor shared that Blum-Shapiro has been contracted to recommend a rate structure to which Scott Shanley asked if they had been made aware of the defunding of the CEN budget. Scott Taylor explained that they do not have all the information available to bring it forward at this time. Scott Shanley believes there will be a benefit for enlisting their recommendations to work through these funding issues. There was discussion regarding the libraries not having the funding available to pay for the services.

There was discussion about the fact that many libraries do not pay for internet. Some have a free DSL service for patrons and CEN for their business purposes. Scott Taylor acknowledged that it will be difficult to charge any of them any amount.

Ken Wiggin explained that there has been \$0 allocated to funding at this time. He stated that it would be good to get a testimony or opinion from this Commission on this line item. The Connecticut Council of Small Towns will be advocating for this funding and he believes that it would benefit for the educational component to get involved.

James Mindek recommended that we look to partnering with the municipalities to explore allocations of grant funding.

Scott Shanley recommended that we make the case that CEN is worth the investment. He mentioned the possibility of funds b allocated from the original set of money that goes to fund K-12 education.

John Elsesser recommended that a motion be made to address defunding of CEN. John Vittner respectfully recommended that we defer that motion until Chair Mark Raymond is present. By the conclusion of the meeting CIO Raymond had not yet arrived; therefore Scott Shanley made a motion that the Connecticut Commission on Educational Technology take initiatives to ensure the continued funding of the CEN initiative. John Elsesser seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

- **RFP Draft Funding:** There was a brief discussion regarding creating an RFP for Funding. Scott Taylor explained that we have reallocated some resources including schools and colleges finding unallocated space. It was recommended that an RFI be created to initiate the RFP process.
- **Data Center:** **James Mindek** expressed a concern he learned of recently regarding States that prohibit information from leaving the State of origin. He brought this to the Commission's attention because of our future plans to maintain data at the Springfield Data Center. Connecticut is not currently under this restriction, but it is a trend that we should be aware of.
- **Status of Executive Director Position:** The position has been reestablished; however, based upon the new budget funding will be an issue. This Commission had formerly explained that this position would be fiscally beneficial. The question to the Commission is to decide if we should pursue filling the position at a diminished level or wait until the budget has been approved in May.
- **Report of Commission Chair:** \$3.7 million of the \$6 million required to maintain the CEN is received from the State, the remainder is collected from stakeholders.

We have been asked to model two rate schedules – one with full funding and one with partial funding. Mark Raymond and John Vittner have spoken with the

Administration regarding this funding. John Elsesser asked how we are handling our contractual lease payment commitments if the CEN line item has been completely defunded. He also asked if this would result in our having to pay the BTOP money back.

Nick Caruso referenced the responsibility of the Commission to advocate for the communities.

John Vittner asked Judy Greiman about her experience in the past with lack of funding. Judy believes that the Commission and the individuals affected by this defunding all need to be expressing their concerns to the Appropriations Committee and their Legislators. She believes that the Commission needs to vote to advocate for this. Jim Mindek said Connecticut has built an infrastructure. He referenced a presentation made in the past by Abe Krist and Joseph Campbell that showed where Connecticut falls in relation to other states and stressed the importance of moving forward to remain competitive. If CEN is defunded, we stand to lose all that has been gained.

John Vittner believes that the infrastructure will continue to exist. The Commission focus should be on how it can be paid for. Judy Greiman shared that alternative ways of paying for it would create hardships in other areas. Scott Shanley explained that defunding is contrary to the intention of networking communities. He believes that the Blum-Shapiro study will provide us with the information we need. Jim Mindek recommended phasing the rate structure in over a period of several years to allow the municipalities an opportunity to seek funding.

- **Other Business:**

- Technology Plans are no longer being required of the schools. Jim Mindek stated that schools are looking for direction on a variety of topics including disaster recovery, hosted services, video conferencing, professional development, etc. He recommended that this Commission respond to these requests. To which, Scott Taylor recommended that we create a presentation of Best Practices. Outreach is important and we should have a repository for the schools to reach into when information is needed. Rich Mavrogeanes clarified that this Commission does not have the resources of staffing or funding required to establish and maintain a repository or create a Best Practices manual, so we would need to look elsewhere for this to be initiated. Nick Caruso made reference to white pages that address some of these concerns that can be explored.

- **Public Comment:** None

- **Future Meeting Dates:**
 - June 1, 2015
 - September 14, 2015
 - December 7, 2015
- **Adjournment:** Having no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia M. Hall

Executive Secretary to CIO Mark Raymond