

# School & Library Network Advisory Board Meeting

## Minutes

### September 10, 1997

Members Present: Bill Black, Tom Romano, Stephen Gilbert, Gary Nichols, Raymond Poulin, Joanne Steneck, Phil Lindley

Members Absent: Barry McCrum, Reginald Palmer

1. Approval of Minutes from August 6, 1997 Meeting. Minutes approved with a correction to the last sentence of the minutes which included the wrong date for the September 10 meeting.
2. Discussion of Commission's Order of August 20, 1997. Joanne Steneck explained that the Commission approved up to an additional \$100,000 for computer grants using the same criteria that has been in place since the start of the project; approved the Board spending up to \$20,000 on a survey of all connected schools and libraries; and allowed additional training spending up to \$265,000. The survey should not be a marketing tool but instead primarily focus on gathering information requested by the Legislature in 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-A(4). The Commission left it to the Board to decide on the appropriate method(s) for training and directed the Board to report back to the Commission once training plans are definite.
3. Report on Applications/Installations. Of the 1,182 eligible schools and libraries, only 24 have declined service and 41 have not responded. 1,092 of the remaining sites are connected. Every public school is connected except for one that is undergoing construction. Art Henry reported on the ongoing level of support that Bell Atlantic (formerly NYNEX) will provide to the project. There was discussion about how no state in the country had anything close to Maine's percentage of schools and libraries connected.

Over 600 sites have responded to the request that they designate a location for directing general e-mail. Art Henry will be contacting remaining sites. By the next meeting, a list of e-mail addresses should be available for including on web sites and directories for each school and library.

4. Proposed Evaluation Process and Instruction. The Board reviewed the proposed draft survey and provided comments. Art Henry and Tom Romano will discuss changes with contractor and e-mail a revised draft of the survey to Board members prior to finalizing format.

5. Report from Training Subcommittee. The subcommittee is continuing to discuss how best to provide training given the \$265,000 budget. They will report back with recommendations at the next Board meeting.
6. Status of State Request for FCC Universal Service Funds. Applications are still not available, although the FCC claims it is still on track to begin awarding funding in January 1998. Ray Poulin attended a conference for state school administrators sponsored by the Milliken Foundation and obtained much useful information.
7. Publicity. Phil Lindley will prepare a press release. Ray Poulin and Art Henry are working with the Governor's Office on additional publicity.

The next meeting will be held October 15, 1997.