

NEVADA BROADBAND TASK FORCE  
MEETING

June 19, 2014  
9 A.M.

**1. Call to order, roll call, and determination of quorum.**

Name	Affiliation	Present	Location
Brad Lyon	Moapa Telephone	X	Logandale
Daphne DeLeon	State Library and Archives	X	Carson
Ed Anderson	Nevada System of Higher Education	X	Reno
Elmer Porter	Eureka County School District	X	Eureka County School District
Vance Farrow	Commission on Economic Development	X	Reno
Jeff Fontaine	Nevada Association of Counties	X	Phone
Jim Garza	Economic Development Authority-White Pine County	X	Ely
Gerald Ackerman	University of Nevada School of Medicine	X	Elko
Randy Brown	AT&T	X	Reno
Sherry Rupert	Nevada Indian Commission		
Linda Stinar	CenturyLink Communications	X	Phone
Rick Nelson	Nevada Department of Transportation		

Daphne DeLeon called the meeting to order at 9:03.

**2. Introduction of task force members and staff, names and affiliations**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Follow up on action items from previous meetings**

None

**5. Approval of minutes from previous task force meetings**

Jeff Fontaine moves and Vance Farrow seconds. Motion passes and minutes are approved.

## 6. Needs Analysis

Elmer Porter reported on the needs of broadband in K-12 education and possible solutions moving forward. Guests were invited to come to the meeting and provide their input on the discussion. (Randy Brown has taken over as chair of this meeting)

### Discussion

Kim Vidoni, Nevada Department of Education, discussed the following topics along with providing a PowerPoint presentation: Education Superhighway, Nevada Ready 21 (One-to-One Initiative), the focus on infrastructure needs, rural school needs, possible solutions, and the role of the Task Force.

Mrs. Vidoni explained that in October 2013 the State School Speed Test was performed with 75% school participation, which is the highest participation Education Superhighway has had. They tested the speeds of at least 10 devices per school and that the test was very easy to use, the user logs into the site, selects their school, run the tests (which takes less than 1 minute), and then the information is reported and analyzed and forwarded to Education Superhighway.

Mrs. Vidoni talked about SETDA Thresholds, which are set by State Educational Technology Directors Association, were used by the Education Superhighway in their analyst and found for Broadband Access for Teaching, Learning, and School Operations if an external Internet connection to the Internet services they'd like at least 100 Mbps per 1,000 students/staff for 2014-2015 School Year Target and then be at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for 2017-2018 School Year Target. Then for Internal wide area network (WAN) connections from the district to each school and among schools within the district they'd like at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for 2014-2015 School Year Target and then at least 10 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for 2017-2018 School Year Target, which is National Standards that most states use.

Rural areas may have 50 students and may only be able to administer 5 tests at a time and if you could expand that there'd be more students getting tested at once.

Daphne DeLeon, State Library & Archives, asked about the 100 kb/student and if it's only for testing and are all technology enhanced curriculums that other classrooms may be engaged in taken into consideration?

Mrs. Vidoni explained that any additional bandwidth usage throughout the school must be compensated for during the test and that there may be some schools that won't have internet usage in their classrooms during testing.

Mrs. DeLeon mentioned that something to look at when we look at quantifying or further quantifying gaps in K-12, and not just with testing but with classroom curriculum's moving that way with One-to-One program and as a parent if I was told

we're going back to book fair week because of testing, this could be very problematic.

Jim Garza, Economic Development Authority – White Pine County, mentions that with a lot of schools going to Chrome books for classes how will that affect the internet/network if all students have Chrome books.

Scott Lomori, Lyon County School District, stated that if you take teachers and classrooms and look at testing windows and expanding them, your instruction will have to go on a modified schedule, we're looking at a lot of different things; we're looking at 30-40 meg testing window just for Lyon County, if you look at Duckwater who has just 1 T1 line it's much more significant, there's a testing component, digital literacy component, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, field trips, virtual field trips, and AutoCAD, they're in the cloud now so those run those programs down and letting them go back up are going to be requirements along with PowerSchool and any infinite campus that has to be running simultaneously with all this other stuff going on. In Lyon County, with us having 100 bits going to 200 if we had all 8000 students testing at the same time at 50k we'd need 400k and we're nowhere close to that. For rural areas the cost to get 1 gig to each one of our schools is large but those students are just as important as anyone else, if it's all kids educated and no one left behind then we need to think about that.

Mr. Garza said that they've got Google Chrome books and teachers and students will access the cloud where all text books will be, that's large use with just regular daily curriculum.

Brad Lyon, Moapa Telephone, asked if anyone has talked about infrastructure in schools, the cloud is Wi-Fi and could cause problems for infrastructure with wireless and Wi-Fi.

Mr. Lomori mentioned that they've had talks about infrastructure in rural areas and having tech people to service any problems that arise.

Mrs. Vidoni presented a PowerPoint slide that shows the impact of lower connectivity in rural areas on students and explained that a greater proportion of rural schools are not ready for bandwidth/student ratio. She also talked about the Nevada Ed Tech Survey, which is an annual inventory survey and it was performed in the Spring of 2014, and said the survey looked at Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) compliant devices and compiled a "red flag" list. She also mentioned the Nevada School District Broadband Survey which looks at broadband connectivity modalities across the state, and determines how many students are not connected via fiber. At the conclusion of the Broadband Survey it showed that Esmeralda, Lyon, Pershing, Storey and White Pine are not connected via fiber.

Mr. Garza asked about ways to cut back on kids using the schools Wi-Fi on their phones?

Mr. Endter replied that they don't allow non-district owned devices to use Wi-Fi.

Dan Slentz, Oasis Online, said they embraced it, wanting to see what tasking it'll put on their internet and network with bringing your own device situation which may be the way of the future of dealing with budgets and everything else school districts have going on. He mentioned it may be better to let the kids use what's on site already to accomplish what they need to throughout the day and they have 450-620 students/staff use their mobile devices daily at school.

Mr. Garza asked about families that can't afford internet and kids use the Wi-Fi at school?

Duane Barton, Elko County School District, says their district allows students and staff to bring devices because they don't have the funds to provide a One-to-One environment and there needs to be discussions about funding methods to expand bandwidth. He also commented that students with their own devices are more advanced and learn other skills that are gonna be helpful in the workplace by bringing learning tools and developing knowledge.

Mrs. Vidoni explained that red flag schools are not being able to administer SBAC due to the fact that the average kilobit/second per student is less than 20% and that's the threshold SBAC set for "red flag" schools. She also presented a list of all Nevada schools that are SBAC ready, which included grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> as well as Charter schools, high schools were not included in this list.

Mr. Lomori mentioned how high schools will be doing online assessments, proficiency exams, almost all assessments will be done online. He asked if there's any other data being presented that represents high schools?

Mrs. Vidoni explained that her superintendent wanted only SBAC schools in the reports she's presenting today, but high schools were included in all collected data, just not included in current report. She also explained that the SBAC testing is taking longer than before and there's no quick fix to solve everyone's problem. She also explained that rural areas don't have the capability to get better broadband in their area or it's too expensive to bring in.

Rob, wanted to know that when we look at what service providers charge for bandwidth do we take into account USAC subsidies and also how budgets are handled with this increased cost?

Mr. Lomori said they pay the cost up front and then wait to get reimbursed from USAC, so they build it into their budget.

Mr. Endter said they have it worked out where they only pay their percentage and that their vendor will take credits from USAC.

Mrs. Vidoni mentioned that the Nevada School District Broadband Survey showed a lot of rural schools don't have the availability to fiber optic connections or it's too expensive.

Mr. Endter asked if it was a budget issue or a connectivity issue.

Alan Medeiros, Lyon County School District, said it's both, some areas are connectivity and other areas it's a budget issue.

Lindsey Harmon, Connect Nevada, mentioned making a list of all schools and what the main issue is whether its affordability or accessibility then take that list to providers and ask how they can help with a solution.

Mr. Barton asked if there is anyone who's empowered to take the compiled information and see it through for a resolution.

Mrs. Vidoni said they are creating a plan for the One-to-One statewide student computing called Nevada Ready 21, and are working with the One-to-One Institute to revise the plan already in place that would include a budget. She stated that rural areas lack the IT expertise and capacity to be involved in the One-to-One program. Part of this plan is to implement a communication strategy that promotes Nevada Ready 21 to the stakeholders.

Mr. Lyon asked why not put a testing server in each school and cut back bandwidth to the cloud?

Mr. Slentz said that SBAC handles all the information and we won't have an opportunity to bring that in house. He also stated that educational equality for all students is very important.

Mrs. Vidoni informed the group that the U.S. Department of Education is using the information from SBAC to push for online testing/technology in the future.

## **7. Possible Solutions**

Some possible solutions discussed were creating a list of all schools that are not able to get broadband and what the main issue is with bringing broadband to them. If it's a budgetary issue, maybe looking into grants (Nevada Commission on Ed Tech, eRate, Connect ED), or looking at money from the federal government to help cover costs associated with providing broadband to schools. If it's an accessibility issue may be working with others in the community (K-12 public education, higher education, and state agencies) to see what construction and/or work is being done currently or in the future that might help with bringing broadband to the schools. Nevada Assessment Readiness Team (NV-ART) was mentioned as well as Nevada Ready 21 Plan includes a committee focused on broadband capacity issues.

## **Discussion**

Ms. Harmon mentioned taking the list that is compiled to a provider and asking how they can possibly help with a solution.

Some other possible solutions could be busing kids to the nearest schools that had the bandwidth needed for the students to take the online testing, or creating a mobile testing vehicle that could travel around to rural schools which would allow the students to still be able to take the online tests.

## **8. Funding Opportunities**

Some funding opportunities might be to look at federal money, grant opportunities or the transportation bill being drafted to see if any money is allocated for broadband for schools.

## **Discussion**

Many ideas were mentioned; supporting pilot programs, as a part of Nevada Ready 21 the superintendent intends to ask for additional funding (\$53 million) to fund the One-to-One program in middle schools, hopefully within 3 years, and Superintendent Erquiaga would like to hold an online testing summit in August 2014 in Las Vegas and it will focus on what needs to be done to get schools to where they need to be for SBAC.

## **9. Role of Task Force**

The role of the Broadband Task Force is to help ensure that all Nevada Students have school access through fiber, accountability for internet service providers (they are installing what they say they're installing), and availability of trained network experts in all districts.

## **10. Action Items**

None

## **Discussion**

## **11. Review and discussion on future meeting dates and agenda items**

None

## **12. Information Items**

None

### **13. Public Comment**

Ms. Harmon informed everyone that Connected Nation will be the third party distributor of the \$100 million that AT&T received for Connect Ed.

### **14. Adjournment**