



## Open Education Subcommittee

August 12, 2008 10:00 am

Community Idea Stations, 23 Sesame Street Richmond, VA. 23235

### MEETING SUMMARY

- **Call to order:** Chairman's welcome.

- **Staff Update**

Staff Attorney Patrick Cushing provided a brief review of Creative Commons licensing as an option for authors of educational content. A quick reference guide was distributed to members of the subcommittee and is available, as well as all other materials from the meeting, on the JCOTS website (<http://jcots.state.va.us>).

- **Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology:** Secretary Chopra will provide an update on efforts to promote open source textbooks through CK-12. CK-12 is a non-profit organization located in Palo Alto, CA working on creating flexbooks or customized content for high school students using open source and content.

Secretary Chopra reviewed several ongoing initiatives in the Commonwealth that compliment the efforts of the subcommittee to promote expanded access to free and low cost teaching materials to citizens of the Commonwealth. Secretary Chopra also briefed the committee on his work to establish a partnership with CK-12 to encourage teachers to share educational content using an online platform. Secretary Chopra also informed the subcommittee that six Governor's Academies would be starting this fall thanks to funding provided through the National Governor's Association. The academies are joint efforts of school districts and businesses and are approved based on specific curriculum requirements. One additional academy is currently applying for designation despite not receiving an NGA grant.

- **Stewart Smith, Education Specialist, Community Idea Stations:** Mr. Smith previously worked for Henrico County Public schools where he taught fourth and fifth

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**Delegate Joe T. May, Chair**

**Senator Mamie Locke, Vice Chair**

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grades as well as served in various leadership capacities. In his current role, he uses his experience to develop and implement instructional technology training for Central Virginia's public school divisions and local technology consortia. Additionally, he manages eKlips, the Community Idea Stations video repository for Virginia educators.

Mr. Smith presented the e-Klips program initiated by Community Idea Stations. e-Klips is an online resource that teachers and members of the public can use to access audio and video media for use in the classroom. The subcommittee expressed interest in learning more about the types of copyrights placed on the media. Mr. Smith said that they are currently working on what type of copyrights they would like to place on the materials. Mr. Smith also distributed a handout with future funding needs if Community Idea Stations were to provide access to all of their materials through eKlips.

- **Dr. Richard Baraniuk, Founder, Connexions:** Connexions is an environment for collaboratively developing, freely sharing, and rapidly publishing scholarly content on the Web. Connexions contains educational materials for everyone – from children to college students to professionals – organized in small modules that are easily connected into larger collections or courses. All content is free to use and reuse under the Creative Commons "attribution" license. Dr. Baraniuk holds a B.Sc. degree from the University of Manitoba, a M.Sc. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, all in electrical engineering.

Dr. Baraniuk presented on the Connexions program for organizing open education content using a web-based platform. One of the topics that interested the subcommittee was the partnership Connexions formed with a print-on-demand company that holds a reverse auction when a user requests a printed copy of materials on the Connexions website.

- **Kirk Schroder and representatives from Pearson Education:** Recent developments in education technology.

Mr. Schroder introduced two executives from Pearson who provided an overview of Pearson's efforts to customize content for each of the 50 states. One of the things that make customization difficult is the specific education requirements of each state, which requires very close attention to detail. Another difficulty in customization is that once a textbook is adopted and purchased by a locality, Pearson is unable to update obsolete content (e.g. Pluto no longer being a planet)

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because there is currently no process that allows for the adoption of specific content, only textbooks in their entirety. Despite these challenges, Pearson has developed several computer based learning tools with innovative content delivery. Additionally, Pearson discussed their plans to break educational content into over 1,100 modules, which would allow teachers to pick and chose the chapters they would like in a text book. One member of the subcommittee asked if local school boards would be able to mix these modules with other modules, perhaps from open sources or another publisher, and the response was "no".

- **Open Discussion**

Senator Watkins expressed his gratitude for the presenters taking time to address the subcommittee and the meeting was adjourned.

- **Public comment:** Members of the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the work of the Open Education Subcommittee.

No public comment.

- **Adjourn.**