Colorado Cyberschool Association Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2008

Call to Order 9:30

Location: Connections Academy

8 Inverness Dr. Ste. 240 Englewood, CO 80112

Members in Attendance: Karval Online: Sharla Book; Branson School Online: Judith

Stokes; Connections Academy: Richard Diehl, Sarah Ault; Hope Online: Heather OMara, Katie Genereux; and Vilas Online:

Janice McKinley.

Members Absent: Monte Vista Online; COVA

Others in Attendance: CDELA: Rosalba Martinez, Tim Spencer; GOAL Academy:

Melissa Brown; and Colorado Coalition of Cyberfamilies: Lori

Cooney, Olivia Gallegos.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome by Judith Stokes, CCA President.
- All in attendance introduced themselves and their organizations.
- J. Stokes discussed history and philosophy of CCA. Members are committed to advancement of all of our students as a group. As a group we would like to advance cyberschools as a whole, but we have been unable to do as much as we would like due to audits, legislation, etc... Moving forward we would like to become a group that is not constantly reacting, but one that is proactive and working together to further our group's mission. J. Stokes read CCA's mission and guiding principles.
- 2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting & approval
 - Heather O'Mara, Secretary, read the minutes of the July 14, 2008 CCA Meeting.
 S. Ault moved that we approve Minutes as read, 2nd by S. Book. 7/14/08 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.
 - J. Stokes provided updates on some of the open items contained in the 7/14/08 Minutes.
 - i. S. Martin's resignation was received and J. Stokes was appointed President by the other CCA members.
 - ii. The website updates are still outstanding but we are working to identify a website developer to revise the CCA website as planned.

3. Membership Dues

- J. Stokes led a group discussion on the dues structures for Members and Affiliate Members as outlined in the 7/14/08 Minutes. Consensus was reached that the structure seemed fair and appropriate.
- H. O'Mara moved to adopt the dues structure, 2nd by S. Ault. Dues structure for the 08/09 Academic Year was unanimously approved.
- New membership application needs to be developed. S. Ault, Treasurer, will send out invoices in January, due by March 1st.

4. Membership Report & Financial Report

- Sarah Ault, Treasurer, presented the Membership Report. Current CCA
 Members: Branson School Online, Connections Academy, COVA, Hope Online,
 Karval Online, and Monte Vista Online Academy.
- Sarah Ault, Treasurer, reported that CCA currently has a bank balance of \$20,213.05.

5. Bylaws changes & approval

- H. O'Mara distributed marked copies of the by-laws and reviewed the proposed changes.
- S. Ault moved to adopt the revised by-laws, 2nd by S. Book. Revised By-Laws were unanimously approved.

6. CDE Annual Report discussion

- J. Stokes led a group discussion relating to feedback and status on the Annual Report for Online Schools, due to CDE by December 1st. Most attendees reported that they had not focused on the CDE Annual Report, but planned to do so in the next weeks.
- There was discussion about how to report and calculate completion rates, as required for the Annual Report. There is no national standard for completion rates- for online or bricks and mortar.
- We agreed that we would document our experience and work with CDE and the SBE to provide feedback and suggest modifications.

7. CCA Annual Report Proposal

- H. O'Mara led a group discussion regarding CCA's development of a CCA Annual Report, focusing on Colorado's full-time online schools and similar to the national report "Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning" prepared by Evergreen Consulting Associates.
- A motion was made by S. Ault, 2nd by S. Book. "CCA will contract with an independent third party for the development of a CCA Annual Report. This report will focus on Colorado full-time online schools and will provide comparisons to national trends and standards. The CCA Annual Report is to be delivered by January 15, 2009, at a budget not to exceed \$7,500." This motion was unanimously approved.
- H. O'Mara will work with J. Stokes and S. Ault to identify contractor. Hope Online agreed to be contact person for contractor.

8. Cyberfamilies Day at the Capitol

- L. Cooney and O. Gallegos led a group discussion about Cyberfamilies Day at the Capitol. This 5th Annual Cyberfamilies Day will be held on February 24, 2009. All agreed the importance of communication and each online school agreed to provide a single point of contact to help with coordination and increase collaboration.
- The Colorado Cyberfamilies Association is seeking one additional parent to serve on the Board. They have recently added two members from Branson District.
- L. Cooney has been appointed President of a newly-formed national organization of cyberfamilies named: "National Coalition for Public School Options."
- Colorado Coalition of Cyberfamilies is working with College Invest to launch a Scholarship Contest. Three winners will receive \$500 College Invest savings scholarships. Video Entries: K-5; 6-8; and 9-12.

9. State Board Presentation Proposal

- Judith Stokes discussed the necessity of CCA presenting our member schools at a State Board of Education meeting.
- All agreed that J. Stokes would request time on the SBE agenda for their February board meeting, before Cyberfamilies Day and after the CCA Annual Report publication.
- Motion was made by H. O'Mara, 2nd by S. Ault. Motion was unanimously approved.

10. Reminder & Agreement on future meeting dates times

- Monthly CCA meetings are currently scheduled on the 2nd Monday of each month from 9:30-11:30am. Meetings will typically alternate between conference calls and face-to-face meetings.
- The next two meetings will be scheduled as conference calls: December 8th and January 12th.
- February 2009 meeting will be scheduled as a face-to-face meeting, prior to SBE Presentation.

11. Other Items

- There is a need to compare CDE rules for the Certification Application and Annual Report to Statute. J. Stokes will schedule a conference call with board members. (J. Stokes)
- S. Book advised that Karval School District, including Karval Online, is subject
 to a Civil Rights audit. There was discussion about what comprised a Civil
 Rights audit. No other attendees were aware of this happening in their school
 district. S. Book will provide correspondence that she received to other CCA
 members. (S. Book)
- Pupil count audit requirements need continued clarification, specifically around recent auditor request for "Drill down" access. (T. Spencer)
- The SBE agenda includes review of revised rules for charter schools and a legislative discussion. (K. Genereux)

12. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.