

TECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 28, 2010 Meeting

Sub-Committee Members Present: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Morin, Mr. O'Hare

Others Present: Mr. Laferriere; Mr. Olson; Mr. Lussier; Mr. Barton; Gary Meuse, Dracut Access Television Executive Director; Rony Camille, Tyngsboro Media Program Director; Tim Kelly, Comcast Sr. Executive Government Services; Recording Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Sub-Committee roll call: Present – Mr. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, (Mr. Morin arrived after roll call)

Mr. O'Hare stated the purpose of the meeting was to investigate broadcasting the regular Greater Lowell Technical School Committee meeting live. While we would like to broadcast in all four communities, we are interested in Lowell particularly due to Lowell having the greatest number of students at GLTHS. Sub-committee is investigating whether it is cost prohibited and whether we have the right equipment.

Mr. Barton informed the board that upon the request of the former Superintendent he had previously provided options of broadcasting live including borrowing a modulator from Andover to test the I-Net. . He stated that he had recently spoken to a Comcast representative who reiterated that there could be significant technical and programming complications dealing with cable operators in each community. Each community has different licensing agreements and technical capabilities. In the case of Tyngsboro, they have both Comcast and Verizon, therefore they would have to find a way to satisfy their Verizon customers.

The first step in the process to initiate live broadcasts would be for the Superintendent to put in a request to air the meetings live to each community. If each community cable board or directors agrees, the city/town manager would then write a letter to Comcast expressing their willingness to give up a time slot one of their local access channels to air the meetings live. Comcast would then do an assessment of our equipment and give us an estimate of what equipment is needed and an estimated cost for the equipment. Someone at Greater Lowell would "flip a switch" to start the live recording and "flip a switch" at the end of the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the age of Greater Lowell's current video equipment. Concerns were raised over the production quality and post production editing equipment. . The question was raised as to the whether the current production and post-production equipment is acceptable for live broadcast viewers.

Discussion also took place regarding the advantage of broadcasting live versus the current method of providing a DVD to each community's local access station. It has been determined that it is the local station's decision as to when they choose to broadcast the meetings.

Mr. Bahou stated that if we were to broadcast live in Lowell only the cost would only be that of the modulator for which he was given a price of \$965. He indicated that it takes a few weeks after the actual meeting for LTC to receive the DVD and air the meeting. Both Mr. Meuse and Mr. Camille indicated that they receive the DVD within a few days of the meeting and try to incorporate it into their viewing schedule within a week of the actual meeting date.

Further discussion ensued regarding equipment options and options for faster reproduction of the DVD's.

Mr. O'Hare said that the committee would investigate the options of live broadcasting versus taped broadcasting.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Morin to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes