

NEISTE Meets in Nashua

Members of New England ISTE convened for their semi-annual meeting in Nashua, NH November 6 & 7. Gorham Technology coordinator Dennis Crowe, President of NEISTE since early 2008, led the meeting. Representing ACTEM were President Crystal Priest, Vice President Michael Richards, and Business Manager Craig Dickinson.

On Friday evening ISTE affiliate director Susan Larson from the Oregon ISTE home office presented opportunities for affiliates, including a reasonably-priced series of professional development webinars.

Dennis reported NEISTE received the first quarterly check of \$6200 from CDI Computers following the signing of the regional June agreement. Maine and other New England states qualify for a 10% discount on already low pricing for CDI reconditioned computers. The alliance between CDI and NEISTE provides NEISTE the opportunity to earn 3% quarterly on all hardware purchases made by NEISTE members. For info: www.cdicomputers.com/NEISTE.aspx

Heather Chirtea of Vermont has met with every “acronym educational group” in her state preparing to respond in a collaborative way when the i3 initiative RFP becomes available likely in March. “So much of Race to the Top money is aimed at urban schools with rural states being left out,” Heather noted. “But the \$635 million i3 is open to non-profits.” Heather suggested the possibility of pulling the New England states together for future grant possibilities and will research what individual states need to have in place.

Michael Richards proposed NEISTE produce a virtual quarterly newsletter, and Crystal Priest offered to assist. It was noted that this periodical could republish ISTE materials. Michael also suggested popular presenters from regional conferences be invited to produce webinars which could be archived.

Funds were earmarked for Paul Barrette of R.I. to set up a virtual server and a NEISTE ListServe. Sheila Adams of New Hampshire will work on neiste.wikispaces.com.

Dennis Crowe will look for a sponsor for the 5th annual New England Reception at the Denver ISTE conference, with Tuesday June 29th being the preferred date.

MassCUE reported a formation of an association for Technology Directors, META (www.techdirectors.org). A conference is being planned for Worcester in March in conjunction with MassCUE that will be open to other states. “Every position in our district office had an organization representing them except the CTO (Chief Technology Officer),” notes Jean Tower of Northborough Public Schools. Jean, who herself is certified as a superintendent, has been working with CoSN on a national certification for CTOs.

The group viewed a presentation of the Vermont School Modernization Initiative which included a “School Maturity Grid,” a concept originally conceived by Apple. Schools are encouraged to complete a current assessment of where their school falls on the model as a starting point for a fundable plan. “Community is the one essential element everyone seems to miss,” Heather Chirtea emphasized. The goal is not necessarily 1-to-1 computing but “modernization in the rural environment,” making the support of homes and businesses essential.

NEISTE will meet again in Mass. March 19-20.