

**LearnCanada Instructional Design
Minutes of Conference Call
November 1, 2000
2:00 – 3:30 pm EST**

Participants:

**OCDSB –Tim Hawes
AESB – Sean Penney
TDSB – Obadiah George
CSCV – Brigitte Lussier
EPS – Karen Andrews and Geoff Buxton**

Discussion Items as per agenda:

1. October 31st event follow up

- General Feedback: All sites agreed that the feedback from participants regarding the event was very positive. Comments: event was rated as good to excellent; got into the topic, got our feet wet; it was a good to get over our jitters, see and evaluate the broadband medium; very pleased with sample project work; stimulating conversation.
- Technical Feedback: All sites felt that the event was technically good, however, there are still technical issues to work on.
 - Microphone issues -have to get past “can you hear me?!” Need to remind participants to speak directly and closely into the microphone.
 - The technology is still a barrier: small windows make it difficult to gauge body language; difficult to hear and see (mike and lighting)
 - Video lag; Audio and video are not in sync –this makes it less “real” less interactive.

2. Staying on track: How can we ensure that our teachers are enthusiastic participants in the LearnCanada project? Ideas discussed:

- Get people more relaxed and more comfortable
 - Cozy rooms, chairs in a half circle, screen at floor level, coffee and snacks
 - Collaboration at site, move around, interact with others at site
 - Smaller more personal sessions
- Encourage more interaction in events
 - Have people come 10 minutes before the actual event and chat.
 - Handling questions: some ideas on how to moderate Q & A sessions:
 1. **Have a question card that participants would stand up to indicate that they wish to speak.**
 2. **Raise hand and have camera focus on them**
 3. **Use Isabel tool: too big and problems with queuing and multiple questions at one site.**

We will try these suggestions at future events.

- Quebec teachers need to be comfortable with the language used.
 - Need to slow down, minimize confusion
 - Have a signal: scratch your head if speaker is going to fast

3. Future Events

November 30th session has been changed to November 21st

- **Topic: PBL with Sid Shugarman**

- **Light moment will be adopted by OCDSB (way-to-go Tim)**

Nov. 16th: possible point to point session: Leads will discuss this with teachers and send out invitations for possible small group interactions

December 14 session: Topic: Work/Planning session focused on sharing ideas on PBL and on the project: Project sharing session. Some possible guiding questions: What resources are needed? What skills are needed? What areas of PD are we needing, where are we headed?

It was suggested by Karen that other sites might desire the opportunity to facilitate an event. After much silence ...

EPS will facilitate Oct – Dec sessions and we will revisit this opportunity after that.

January Session: Might be lead by CSCV –in French. Sites will need to arrange for interpreters. Brigitte will discuss this idea with her team and tell us what they will be doing at the next meeting.

March session is highly problematic –spring break is staggered throughout the month across the country. We will look at the calendar and attempt to pick a suitable date.

Next conference call: November 15th at 2:00 pm EST (Eastern Standard Time)

Thank you