K-12 Advisory Group Spring Teleconference Agenda

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 9:00 AM Central

Welcome - Len

Region 20 2nd Quarter Update – Susanna

Updates on signup progress, training and outreach activities, starting to shift our focus to include training efforts toward non-librarians, curriculum directors, subject areas, etc. New initiatives include the TexQuest X-Press newsletter with over 400 subscribers, the "We Are TexQuest" stickers and badges at TLA, and "We Use TexQuest" logos our users can download and display on their websites and in email signatures. Districts can request training using a new online form found at http://texquest.net/trainingtools

Process for determining priorities for future program purchases - Len

Our request for exceptional item funding is in a joint Legislative committee now, and Mark and the Commissioners are contacting each member of the committee to enlist their support in additional funds for TexShare and TexQuest content. We are asking for $1.25 million from the legislature, to be supplemented by $100,000 in federal funds and an additional $100,000 in program participation fees in FY2016 and in FY2017 for a total of $1.45 million. We will not know for sure until the end of June whether this exceptional item is passed, and we will need to meet in July to plan for additional content and a possible price increase for districts if it does pass.

Please review the survey for additional content at:
http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1848367/TexQuest-Database-Content-Priorities

Are there curriculum areas, grade levels, or student groups not shown as choices on the survey? Are there any other areas we should assess? **A suggestion was made to combine questions 6 & 7 and to separate elementary into early (Pre-K – 2nd grade) and later (3rd – 5th grades). Len will do this, then make the survey public next week so we can start to get some input before summer break.**

There was a question on adding discovery services to the bid – Len's initial response was that the exceptional item was for additional content, so a discovery service would not qualify, but he will investigate further and see if that is a possibility.

Invoices – Len

We have collected approximately $750,000 so far from districts, and we anticipate collecting $850,000 – $900,000, so we will need to use some carryover funds to pay Britannica in June. If the exceptional item above passes, we will need to collect additional funds from districts ($1.1 million in FY2016 and $1.2 million in FY2017). We are currently invoicing for $1.060 million, but we understand that not all districts will pay their invoices. Please encourage districts that have

not yet paid to do so as soon as possible, and to contact Len if they need anything. (see the [Zeemap](#) for unpaid districts – shown in blue)

Suggestion – emphasize IMA funds can be used for the invoice – some districts may have leftover funds – TexQuest is instructional materials, and does qualify for IMA funding.

From Angela, via email: "The smaller districts are hurting for funds and we are having trouble getting administration to buy into databases because they don't think they will be used or that there are other things more important, you know…like football or resurfacing a parking lot or buying iPads."

From Len: Please shift the conversation away from "TexQuest is Free!" toward "TexQuest is a terrific Deal!" – The free period is essentially over, and we need to emphasize the importance of district support in the form of the timely payment of program participation fees.

Summer Training – TexQuest Roadshow – Ann

The Roadshow is going to cover almost all of the ESCS, from July – after school starts, depending on the availability of space. Some districts are hosting training, and this is a great option, as long as it is open to surrounding districts and schools. ESC20 is hoping to shift basic resources training to an online course so we can focus on curriculum integration and more advanced training in our face-t-face sessions across the state.

From Angela (via email): "Although those of us in libraries know that a database is going to give us filtered, vetted, trustworthy information, convincing lazy students and teachers to use them over Google has proven to be a continual challenge. Making them fun to use, with apps and things like that, will be big ammo going forward."

"Streamlining the training process is also going to be important. 3 hours of training is great, but we need something that will be quick that could be done in a staff meeting or one hour. Our teachers need easy, both time wise and understanding wise."

Britannica School Integration - Len

ESC20 is sending Britannica a list each week of districts that have paid their invoices and will definitely be continuing in the program into year 2. We anticipate all accounts will be activated on June 15 with no problems. **Question – a consortia is telling districts their Britannica credentials are not going to change – Len will follow up and see where this information is coming from. Districts will all get the standard j###### username and "learn" password for Britannica, and if they want to change to anything else, including their previous credentials, they will need to submit a customization from to the TexQuest Support Center. There are some specific requirements Britannica has in place around unique username/password combinations, so the sooner they request customization, the better. This is being communicated to districts in Region 20's "welcome to Year 2" emails. Some districts may be going straight to Britannica to customize, so Len will communicate the program's expectations to Britannica that all of these changes funnel through the Support Center.**

Standards and Guidelines Update - Len

No word yet from TEA, despite emailing them weekly for a status update and to prod them to move the process of jointly appointing the steering committee.

Other:

Len has had several requests from librarians to help them advocate locally for librarian and support staff positions & budget increases, so he has created a file of advocacy resources. He is working on publishing this folder somewhere online as a toolkit to supplement the resources available from TLA and AASL.

Nora Galvan has put together a presentation for her school board on all of the excellent results her districts' librarians have produced this year – it is a terrific model for us to use as we communicate locally in support of our library programs. Her district's library webpage is here: http://www.psjaisd.us/Domain/43 , and this will be published soon.