

## **MassCAN Advisory Board Meeting – Wednesday May 24, 2017**

**In attendance:** Carole Mahoney, Eric Conti, JD Chesloff, Tripp Jones, Pat Larkin, Danielle Curio (via phone)

**Board and Meeting Chair:** Steve Vinter

**Time:** 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Wednesday May 24, 2017

**Location:** MITRE Corporation  
202 Burlington Road (Route 62)  
Bedford, MA 01730  
MITRE Center (C Building) Room 1C103

### **Agenda**

Agenda discussion

Review and approve March minutes

Discussions with Sec. Peyser / EOE (Tripp)

- Scope of Work and Transition

Superintendents meeting (Eric)

National Workshop (Steve)

- BNY Mellon State of the State Report
- NSF Funding: Complete Workshop Eval, Start Research/Model building project, On-going engagement with 10 state leads

Financial Update (Steve)

### **Handouts**

- March meeting minutes
- Deck (presented)

### **Agenda Discussion**

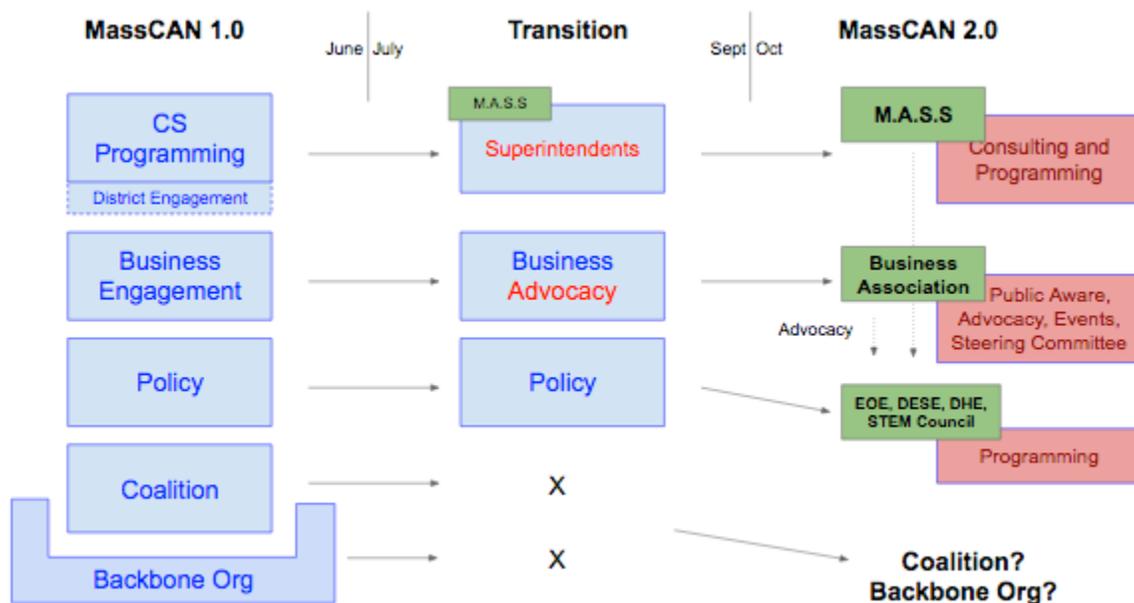
- No items added

### **Review March Minutes**

- Minutes approval moved by Eric and seconded by JD. Approved in a VOTE, Ayes unanimous.

### **Discussion with Sec. Peyser**

Discussed this slide this slide with Sec. Peyser, which was also presented to the group in a deck that included details of the draft Transition Plan:



- Tripp -- Lessons learned and we're figuring out how to make more progress faster. Describe the evolution of a plan that takes the best elements of MassCAN and takes in mind practicalities and perspective on what is important to get done in the short term. We are getting a good degree of attention and MassCAN is evolving into something new.
- Steve -- We are going on from 1.0 to transition to MassCAN 2.0. We need to think through each piece like PD/Programming, Business Advocacy, Policy Work (EOE, DESE, DHE). The coalition has been difficult to make work. Leads wanted to redefine and restart to get something like a collective impact model moving. We do not think we are ready for that and we need funding for it. We need to let go of the 1.0 model, which includes discarding the idea of a backbone organization. A lot of our work has been driven by the backbone organization (EDC). There have been 2 problems with this model: The funding model is the 1:1 match, which means it is not possible to have the infrastructure in place from the beginning, and it has been difficult to get the funding we want from businesses.
- Steve -- The state we envision creating by October has 3 elements:
  1. Clear, significant M.A.S.S. role, where we use the transition to define the programming, and we get a group of superintendents assembled and convened to move forward the agenda

2. Business Association to lead Advocacy and Public Awareness is identified
  3. We work with EOE, DESE, DHE, and STEM Council to identify best next steps on policy.
- Steve -- When the 9c cuts were made to 2017 funds. I care about getting high quality CS to students at scale more than MassCAN as an entity. Sec. Peyser indicated a desire to preserve the MassCAN brand, but that isn't as important as making CS education happen at scale.
  - Steve -- Can we quantify what "at-scale" means? Below 5% or above 5% of all students? Above 5% is requires a very different approach, as it isn't just students opting in but a deeper commitment from school districts. [General discussion ensued about setting goals for graduates of high school having competency in CS.] I propose 30% of all graduates should be the goal in about 5 years. We have to work out what "competency" means -- is it based on standards or having taken a course like CSP? We're just starting to think about that.
  - Steve -- This will also ask us to rethink the role of the Leads and the Advisory Committee. The Leads advise to the process and advisory has fiduciary power.
  - Tripp -- We have two very practical high priorities:
    1. Defining a large Superintendent's role to drive the education.
    2. Getting a Business group to drive Advocacy
  - Steve -- I now realize we took on too much ownership of this, as it let others take on less ownership (OEO, Business community, School Districts). How should ownership shift? One thing is clear: we need the administration to see the business community's involvement and loud voice in this. Tripp and I have a meeting with Sean Morrissey tomorrow at Google to get his perspective on the most effective business organization partner.
  - Tripp -- In 2.0 world is there state funding? We're not going to rule that out, but we've got to sort out how a matching program can be successful with this new MassCAN 2.0 approach.
  - Pat Larkin -- What does MTC need? The fact that superintendents it is giant plus. When the pivot happens we'll need to resolve our role, but this plan makes great sense and we're supportive. Are you moving hand-in-hand with the legislators on this?
  - Tripp -- Good questions that haven't been discussed: The chart has been shared with Sec. Peyser's team, and the STEM Council has transition funding available that could be used to staff the transition team at EDC. We're thinking of the '17 school year being used for planning, and then pilots for the fall of 18.

**ADVISORY BOARD WANTS TO SEE GOALS WRITTEN:** By 2020...30% of graduating high school students will have taken a high quality introductory course to computer science in MA. [All expressed favorable support for this position.]

### **Superintendents meeting**

- Eric -- 2 meetings with the secretary and MassCAN got us in the door. It is difficult to translate the type of work Eric does with the superintendents. Conversation with the Secretary didn't go as well as I wanted, but I realize that the pace of movement takes time. I ask the governor to ask the public schools to help schools drive change at the spring meeting of school superintendents (most come 150-200/350). Superintendent Julie Hackett from Taunton will be President soon and is committed to focus superintendents on CS education, and there's already lots of interest.
- Eric -- It is a great goal to have CS included in the State of the State Address – make it our sputnik moment. Let's be in that speech. Jobs are being lost – and we need to prepare our students for the changing job opportunities.
- Eric -- I need to work with Tom to get suburban, urban, and rural districts involved. Rural is difficult without good Internet access and we have concerns about this. We should focus on middle school program, where we can give most middle schoolers a technology experience. The teacher just need to be retrained from a product based class to a CS class. The middle school doorway is often used to innovation and change efforts.
- Tripp -- MOS board meeting occurred and they are moving to profit in publishing around CS for the lower to middle school levels, building on their Engineering Is Elementary (EIE) curriculum experience. They are a national publisher. This is a space that PLTW is also in.
- Eric -- High quality options that do not need internet should be explored. Let's keep the conversation and getting the work out. We've got to keep the quality high. And Computer Science needs to be defined. We can be talking about a lot of different things.
- Steve -- Do we make computer science mandatory? I still think not. All the top down mandates make things unreasonable for districts. If the district drives this it will be implemented in ways specific to each district -- there are different local requirements and constraints. And MassCORE is important because they define high quality. We would like CS to be counted in MassCORE. Digital Literacy is clear. I know they have that component, but we are working now to figure that out for CS.

- Tripp -- Higher Ed will be an issue and teacher prep is going to be an issue. We need a la carte options available.
- Eric -- It will be interesting to see a pilot program and a breadth of options. I will work on that by focusing on equity by putting it in middle school because they don't usually have many options so if we put it there it has to be taken.
- Steve -- We should put together a welcome package for superintendents
  - Goals
  - Needs
  - Research (BNY Mellon Report)
  - A "We Need Your Help" Piece
- Eric -- I'm think of this like a product: we need a plan, definition for what's going to be taught, a series of training opportunities, and lots of information.
- Carole -- we need deadlines and deliverables, just like with product delivery. Put things on a schedule with a date and a person attached to this.
- Steve -- agreed, that's key to this transition step, putting a concrete plan with deliverables together. Jim is not here so I would like to hear his point of view but I'll definitely be following up with him.

### **Business Association Leaders**

- Tripp -- We need to figure out who can house the work and what would it look like. We want to figure out financing on MassCAN 2.0. Fundraising, awareness, and advocacy should be their responsibility. Money raised episodically for events and work. Business groups can think about all of the factors and best ways raise money for awareness. We need business leaders pushing for advocacy.
- Tripp -- The state was thinking of getting rid of the engineering assessment because of the cost. We are all accountable for our graduation rates. If we can count on business folks to back the cause we can make this work. Steering and advisory boards would mobilize support. With the superintendents driving requests, we have to have a core group of heavy hitters to think about their need in each year. An asks for money would be targeted. But it's still hard -- GE is an example of how it is difficult to spend money well without the right structures in place.
- Tripp -- We're also thinking about partner with the Rennie Center for looking at models.
- Pat Larkin -- Why Rennie? Why not MBAE?: Advisory board work with the DESE K-12 CS data assessment projects for DESE.

- Tripp -- this has a very narrow focus. This is a short term one the Rennie center which they would be ready to do.
- JD -- The coalition and a steering committee has more opportunity. There is more thinking to be done there. The roundtable has an intern. Emerging Leaders Program partnership (UMASS Boston). If there is an idea to work on, we might be able to take advantage. Young professionals work on an issue. A team will adopt and get submit. It is free research. It needs to be done by Friday. Have them build a real project plan.

## **Financials**

- Steve -- We're not figuring out the follow-on work to the National Workshop. Jim went back to NSF to get funding to convene the leaders and find models for states to recommend how to deploy similar CS initiatives in other states.
- Steve -- Here's where we stand with the available funding: \$100K is remaining and available to be matched. Funds are available to get EDC staff working on MassCAN through June. Jim with working with MTC to get alignment on Match approvals and reimbursements. This will take a couple of months to resolve but there are no anticipated issues.

## **Adjournment**

- Steve -- A motion to adjourn? Moved by Carole and seconded by Eric. Approved in a VOTE, Ayes unanimous.