

MassCAN Advisory Board Meeting – Wednesday July 26, 2017

Massachusetts Computing Attainment Network (MassCAN) Advisory Board

Attendees: Kelsey Cintolo, Eric Conti, Rick Adrion, Carole Mahoney, Danielle Curcio

Meeting Chair: Steve Vinter

Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Date: July 26, 2017
Location: MITRE Corporation
202 Burlington Road (Route 62)
Bedford, MA 01730
MITRE Center (C Building) Room 1C103

Agenda

- Welcome and agenda review
- Update on transition of MassCAN 1.0 to MassCAN 2.0
 - M.A.S.S. Update by Eric Conti
 - Business Advocacy Update by Tripp Jones
- Update on state funding
- Update on the Transition Grant

M.A.S.S. Update by Eric Conti

- The CS initiative was presented and discussed at the annual M.A.S.S. meeting with superintendents. Eric shared how the superintendents meeting went and the group's reaction to the [WGBH video](#) produced to introduce superintendents to the initiative. There is much enthusiasm for the program.
- Equity concerns were the biggest concern raised. How do we ensure that districts in the western part of the state or have fewer resources are able to participate in the program?
- A vendor spoke to Eric about how he could work with the superintendents and get interns into his business. This led to a general discussion about the need to seek out vendors who can be useful resources to districts.
- Targeted PD is in demand for the elementary, middle and HS levels
- Eric laid out some of his ideas for using model schools that are leading and doing great work at elementary, middle and HS levels to lead meetings/gatherings to share what they've done. A big challenge for Eric is to organize these discussions.

Business Advocacy Update by Tripp Jones

- Lead people within key organizations in the state will be point people and taking on ownership of the initiative.

- Discussions have begun with leaders from the Boston Chamber of Commerce, AIM, MBR, and MACP, among others.
- We are targeting broader participation of industry high-level C-level leaders to take ownership and partnership
- It's not clear whether this Advisory Board will remain active or evolve into something else
- There are ways that Eric sees that the business community can collaborate with schools
- Superintendents are in a great position to advocate to the state a new direction for CS education
- A compelling strategy for engaging CEOs will be to appeal to their values, define deliverables and develop a strategy for a solid plan for implementation.
- MassCAN could position itself as a grantor of the National Honor Society of Computer Science designation (gamification of education)
- The big question is 'what is in it for businesses to participate in this initiative?'
 - Is it appealing to education reform?
 - How do we capture how MA compares to other states in terms of progress?
 - Are we leading or falling behind?
- The Superintendents are working on a 2-yr plan to align their keynote speakers to provide support for this CS initiative.
- The Advisory Board are offering their services to assist the Superintendents and Eric in particular, to figure out what the plan and strategy will look like after the planning
- There is a hope that we can produce more videos that can speak to the business community but the question is where would these videos live. Is the MassCAN website the right place or another site?
- What is the convening plan for the MassCAN Leads? This was discussed but left unresolved.
- Another activity that is going on is participating in the national dialog that gained steam with the workshop at Google. What's the plan for convening the MA delegation to the national conference? We recognized that we haven't found a leader to step up and drive this. Jim is heavily involved in coordinating the overall effort.

Update on state funding

- State funding was approved by the state in FY18 budget. However, this is a likely candidate for the governor's 9c cuts, so we need to prepare to make a case for funding it, given the new strategic situation.
- We then discussed the MassCAN financial dashboard. There were no outstanding questions.

Update on the Transition Grant

- District engagement/MASS task force
- Update on DLCS Licensure work

- Update on business leadership

Next Meeting

The proposed next meeting dates are 9/6 and 10/11 Carole will check when the MITRE meeting room is available.

Steve asked for motion to adjourn. Eric made the motion and Danielle seconded.