

## MSPnet Advisory Board Meeting

Attendees: Verna Holoman, Judi Fonzi, Jay Labov, Terrence Millar, Jim Dorward, Chris Dede, Stone Wiske, Dan Gruen, Geoffrey Bock, Elizabeth VanderPutten

### Day 1, December 3<sup>rd</sup> The MSPs and MSPnet

#### Morning Session 9:30-12:30

9:30 – 10:00 Introduction to MSPnet, setting the stage

Reviewed project mission and activity to date. Website design, and functionality to be available for the first rollout at the 2004 Learning Network meeting, were described and briefly demonstrated.

Ad Board members commented on MSPnet, and on issues or ideas they were particularly interested by. Such issues included:

- making sure that MSPnet reflects and reinforces the Key Features that the MSPs are implementing
- how to make sure that MSPnet's functionalities and activities are responsive to the audience we serve
- ways to gradually build participation from the MSP community, and ensuring that the website remains user-friendly even as its sophistication grows

10:00 – 10:30 Anatomy of a Mathematics MSP ("Deepening Everyone's Mathematics Content Knowledge") (Judi Fonzi)

Judi Fonzi presented a full and careful description of the structures of her project and how they interacted with the key tasks of development, scanning the field (learning), implementation, evaluation, and reporting. This in turn allowed us to discuss the communications needs of the various elements of the project, and how MSPnet might serve.

10:30 – 11:00 Anatomy of a Comprehensive MSP ("North Carolina Partnerships for Improving Mathematics and Science") (Verna Holoman)

Verna gave a description of her much larger, Comprehensive MSP, involving 17 "low wealth" school districts. She spoke of the development and implementation process that happens within her project, and the contributions of various elements within the project. Among other points, she noted that there is a very high teacher turnover rate, and also that parents in the districts are not used to communicating with school personnel, feeling intimidated by them. They need help understanding standards-based education reform. Various constituencies within her project have need to interact-- for example, administrators, district leadership teams, and the various facilitators in the field.

11:15 – 11:45 – A view across the MSPs with a special attention to the role of higher education faculty (Jay Labov) Jay Labov articulated 10 major trends in university teaching which he contends will shape the kinds of exchanges that can usefully take place between higher ed and K-12 education. His 10 predictions :

1. teaching will become more public (and thus more open to critique)
2. Nature and quality of assessments will change
3. Evaluation documentation of teaching will change, along with accountability for teaching quality
4. Teaching will be technology-enabled.
5. Transmission of content will no longer be the sole focus of undergrad and graduate teaching.
6. Curriculum and program design will be inseparable from changed views of teaching and learning
7. Diversity will be seen as asset-based
8. Pedagogy that students have experienced before college will change their expectations about effective teaching
9. Higher ed facilities will have to look different, as they are designed around the curriculum
10. A new scholarship of higher ed teaching will appear.

He suggested that MSPnet can help this by focusing attention on the content and emphasis of introductory courses, since he believed that the education of future teachers is where there's feedback to the MSPs.

Afternoon session 1:15-4:15

1:15 – 2:00 - Another perspective across the MSPs with a focus on the needs of projects to conduct assessment (Jim Dorward).

Jim Dorward, from his perspective in a RETA, suggested that MSPnet could give more voice to teachers and administrators. He also felt, looking at the logic models of the various MSPs, that they treat student outcomes as the end rather than the beginning. How are projects using student achievement to diagnose problems with the project, and improve its work? He suggested that people should be encouraged to share stories, for example about what elements of science content are being particularly influenced by the project activities.

Other content that he suggested may be valuable to have on MSPnet:

- access to studies and associated valid measures that assess project themes
- logic models that address needs of all stake holders
- an example of how to design evaluation in a way to help teachers.
- models about how projects are using information

2:00 – 4:15 Research Interests and Perspectives (Stone Wiske, Chris Dede)

This session, which began with comments from Chris Dede and Stone Wiske, explored

aspects of research that MSPnet should be conducting, and ways to build its research agenda carefully. Key topics circled around the "unique feature of the MSP program — the inclusion of disciplinary faculty." MSPnet can highlight the challenge of maximizing the impact of disciplinary faculty, can make relevant resources and research findings available, and foster conversations that capture the perspectives and experiences of disciplinary faculty who are engaged in this effort.

In this connection, as well as with other aspects and postulates of the MSP program, "MSPnet can play a role in increasing metacognition, and developing more sophisticated and realistic logic models." In addition, MSPnet is in an interesting position to explore the interactions of community conversations with the different affordances of different tools for communication

MSPnet was advised that it should be careful to filter all the possible research activities that it might undertake, to center on a few key questions, since there are very many possibilities. There was general discussion of the research program laid out in the MSPnet proposal, and encouragement to proceed, with care and in consultation.

## Day 2, December 4<sup>th</sup>

### Tools for Facilitating Collaboration

#### Morning Session 9-12

9:00 – 10:00 Exploring MSPnet

First hour was spent demonstrating and getting feedback on the "rollout" version of MSPnet

10:00 – 10:30 Lessons Learned from Instructional Architect (Jim Dorward). Jim Dorward presented an overview of the Instructional Architect, with ensuing general discussion about interface and architectural design questions that arose.

10:45 – 11:15 - Thinking about Knowledge Management (Geoffrey Bock)

This session was led by the reflections of Geoffrey Bock. Key points addressed included:

- Creating expectations of increasing user control, to accompany increasing user familiarity with and reliance on MSPnet as a medium of publication and exchange
- bearing in mind that the "system" of MSPnet, with its multiple levels and multiple kinds of participation, will provide different ways by which users can begin to find it useful. For example, as one person said, "work within our project will intrigue us, and then we can extend our experience to other spaces, e.g. the Hub. This in turn will stimulate suggestions for the larger tool; the more I know, the more I can think about what I might want."
- In connection with that, MSPnet should think also about a taxonomy of tools, that match the differing skill levels of the user, or the amount of learning needed to make use of tools at each of the levels of complexity from tools to applications to systems to solutions to environments.

11:15 - 12:00 Tools for facilitating collaboration (Dan Gruen)

In discussing tools and functionalities, the meeting concluded with some discussion of possible topic areas to be represented on MSPnet, either as tools and resources, or as topic areas for exchange, which might serve various constituencies, such as:

- teacher learning materials (content, pedagogy, assessment techniques)
- classroom activities
- student assessments
- teacher assessment tools
- discussing values, with reference to student work
- reporting to NSF
- thinking/learning/analyzing the program of different projects
- formal research tools and dissemination of findings; documents to support advocacy and policy work
- communication and management tools
- workshop design/support.revision
- coaching/consultation/collaboration