

**INFOhio**  
**Distance Learning & Course Catalog Registration System**  
Focus Group Meeting – March 16, 2023

**Focus Group Members Present:**

Amy Merrill-Wyatt  
Kathy Mohr  
Paul Hieronymus  
John Mitchell  
Michele Carlisle  
David Stein

**Project Updates –**

**Project Plan Status –**

Recent Activities:

RFI Evaluation Rubric

I created a rubric to assign points based upon meeting the outlined specifications. In addition, solutions would receive points for meeting the other aspects of the RFI; however, meeting the requirements of the specifications resulted in the greatest number of points.

RFI Results

As reported previously, we received a limited response to the RFI. Three vendors have been involved in discussions with us including, Canvas, CourseStorm, and PowerSchool.

Evaluation of Potential Solutions

Canvas has a Course Catalog module; however, you must load each of the courses in the Canvas LMS. Licensing Canvas LMS statewide is cost prohibitive. PowerSchool proposed using the professional development module under the Unified Talent umbrella of solutions. While this has potential, it too is cost prohibitive. After meeting with CourseStorm to clarify our requirements, created a sandbox to allow for demonstration and testing.

**Project Communications** – the following document project communications over the past several weeks.

**User Focus Group** – an email update regarding the RFI and a request to consider PD

**INFOhio Staff Members** – general updates on the project

**Booth at OETC**

**INFOhio User Council** – Members of this group received an update as part of other INFOhio updates.

**BASA Technology Committee** – This was a very informative session. All present engaged and offered insight, answers and provided questions for our consideration.

**Review of Potential Solutions** – I provided a brief demonstration of the CourseStorm solution. The consensus was that this solution had an updated interface and could be a platform for this project. We discussed the possibility of having a developer review the software developed by Chad Carson to see if an update to that solution might be a possible alternative.

**Professional Development Discussion** – the group discussed professional development needs for the project including; PD specific to the solution, general PD for teachers in a blended environment, as well as PD for parents with students participating in a class offered through the platform.

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**How Do We Measure Success?**

There was an acknowledgement that the following were measures of success: meeting project timelines and deliverables, school participation, student participation, number of courses in the catalog. This is an item that we will continue to discuss.

In addition, there was a suggestion to survey staff from the home school with a student participating in a course regarding the effectiveness of a course offered through the platform.

**Other Discussion Items?**

Two suggestions regarding schools participating in a course on the platform. The first was to create suggestions (or recommendations) regarding the course platform (Zoom, Teams, etc.). The second was to create suggestions for equipment needed to be successful in both the hosting school and the home school.

**Next Meeting April 20<sup>th</sup>**