



Vermont Data Consortium Annual Meeting
 May 18, 2011
 LAPDA-VDC Conference Room, Conference Call and LNV

1. Participation:

SU	SU Representative	Location
Addison Central SU	Susan Sheets	Montpelier
Addison Northwest SU	Bob Owens	Montpelier
Addison Rutland SU	Steve Lindemann	Phone
Bennington Rutland SU	Dan French	Phone
Chittenden Central SU	Vince Gonillo	Phone
Chittenden South SU	Cameryne Kelley	Phone
Lamoille North SU	Dean Pallozzi	Montpelier
Lamoille South SU	Aria Benjamin	Montpelier
Orleans Southwest SU	Bill Kimball	Montpelier
Rutland Northeast SU	Edie Beatty	Montpelier
Washington Central SU	Carol Freeman	Montpelier
Washington South SU	Brucie Donahue	Montpelier
Windham Northeast SU	Chris Kibbe	Montpelier
Windham Southeast SU	Paul Smith	LNV

2. Welcome & Introductions: Bill Kimball, Co-Chair of the VDC Board welcomed and thanked all SU representatives for taking time out of their schedules to participate. He informed the group that the meeting would be organized around the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and [Appendices](#) that John Ferrara, VDC Data Coordinator, had already sent SU representatives. He told the group that due to the number of remote participants we would try to cut the meeting time to approximately 90 minutes.

Agenda	
Welcome & Introductions	9:00-9:10
FY11 Overview (Membership, budget, accomplishments)	9:10-9:30
FY12 Overview & Discussion (Challenges and opportunities)	9:30-10:15
Break	10:15-10:30
FY12 Decisions (Membership Levels & Fees, Board Election, Services)	10:30-11:45
Parting Thoughts & Revisit 'parking lot' issues	11:45-12:00
Adjourn	12:00



3. Agenda Items & Discussion: For all items below John Ferrara introduced the slide to the group and elaborated on each bullet topic. Bill Kimball would then lead the group through a discussion of each topic.

- **FY11 Overview: Membership & Budget, Accomplishments:**

FY11 Overview: Membership & Budget

- FY11 fees: “Basic”= \$1,500, “Premium”=\$5,000
(Appendix A)
- 28 SUs in FY11 (Appendix B)
 - 18 ‘Basic’
 - 6 ‘Premium’
 - 4 ‘Basic/Premium’
- 27 SUs have paid to date = \$59,000 revenue
- FY11 decision was to supplement membership revenue with up to \$30,000 in FY10 “carryover”
(Appendix C)

FY11 Overview: Accomplishments

- Continued to produce well-received individual student & roster assessment PDF reports (Appendix D)
- Worked with DOE to transition entire system from Oracle to SQL Server as well as current upgrade from v8.0 to v8.5 of Analysis Suite
- Held 27 trainings, workshops or one-on-one sessions for VDC members and DOE
- Produced custom reports for ‘premium’ members
- Responded to nearly daily data requests



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- Several members complimented the VDC Data Coordinator on his prompt response to EDW questions or helping to build EDW queries.
 - It was also emphasized by several members how valuable the individual student profile and NECAP roster reports were that the VDC Data Coordinator created with data from the EDW.
 - Bruce Donahue (Washington South) also brought up that it was very helpful to now have the ability to take the Measured Progress NECAP files when they arrive at schools during the verification period and load them in the local warehouse (CDM) for immediate access.
 - Chris Kibbe (Windham Northeast) also talked about one of the major frustrations of the system is that low quality data is sometimes in the system. He talked about his experience with inaccuracies related to enrollment. John couldn't remember exactly what Windham Northeast's issue was, but he explained how the data is processed from multiple collections for the EDW and where possibilities for errors exist.
- **FY12 Overview: Challenges & Opportunities:**

FY12 Overview: Challenges

1. Products & Services
 - VDC has become defined by the EDW "product"
 - EDW is seen as only the 'Analyzer' tool
 - The EDW data model and 'Analyzer' tool are too complex for most users
2. Budget
 - Most of FY10 carry-over used in FY11
 - FY12 budget shortfall of \$20,000-\$30,000



FY12: Opportunities

1. Continue/enhance things that are working
 - Student profile and roster PDF reports
 - Individualized workshops, favorites, reports
2. Support emerging projects
 - DASH (already part of software license) (Appendix E)
 - Dynamic Reports to replace PDFs (Appendix F)
3. Promote 'per diem' services
 - PowerSchool reports
 - Support members w/ new DOE data requirements
 - Other SU-specific needs

- John explained that TetraData is aware of how the Classroom Analyzer failure of four years ago has left a bad taste in the VDC's mouth.
- John also explained how TetraData is now promoting DASH as its product for a wider-audience and AnalyzerPC as the tool for more specialized data analyst staff in districts.
- John explained the relationship between DASH and the new DOE ARRA-related data requirements and how the DOE is hoping a small number of VDCs SUs will be able to pilot DASH in FY12. That pilot will not only inform how DASH can be used for VDC 'premium' members that have local warehouses, but that all SUs in the state might have the ability to take advantage of DASH once the new data collection had the teacher-student "connection" with schedule data and student transcript (course grades) data.
- Chris Kibbe (Windham Northeast) wondered if DASH was the same "data mining" tool that Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf had spoken about at a recent meeting. No one was positive what Rae Ann was referencing.
- Members were supportive of the concept of DASH, but were not sure the VDC Data Coordinator's already-less-than-full-time position should spend time on additional tasks that will not immediately benefit all VDC SUs.
- Vince Gonillo (Chittenden Central) wondered if the VDC could encourage a handful of VDC SUs to come up with some additional money that could fund that DASH pilot work. Those SUs would get the immediate benefit (hopefully) of the tool and the rest of the VDC would gain the benefit later.



- There was also some skepticism about whether DASH would truly be usable at the classroom level and the VDC Data Coordinator was asked to check with TetraData to see if there are reference school districts that are using DASH effectively at the classroom level.

- **FY12 Overview: Options & Fee Options:**

FY12 Overview: Options

Option	Things to Consider (+/-)
1. Operate at FY11 levels until 03/30/12 with little to no change in fee structure	+ Services delivered as expected + Gets us past the critical NECAP "window" - "Premium" members take biggest hit
2. Operate at a reduced level for all of FY12	- Services many not get delivered as timely + Custom services for "premium" members continue all year
3. Operate at FY11 levels for all of FY12 by increasing fees	+ Services delivered as expected all year - Budgets are too tight for any fee increases
4. "Turn off the lights the party's over" option – i.e., shut down the VDC	- No field access to EDW and related reports & services. DOE can not fill in the gap. - Difficult to recreate 501(c)3 non-profit status and organizational infrastructure + SU budget saves \$1,500 or \$5,000

FY12 Overview: Fee options (Appendix G)

- Same as FY11
 - \$1,500 or \$5,000
 - Level 1, 2= 24, 4
 - Revenue ≈ \$56,000
- Create new membership tier
 - \$1,500, \$3,000 or \$5,000
 - Level 1, 2, 3 = 19,5,4
 - Revenue ≈ \$63,500 (+\$7,500)
- Create new membership tier & minor fee increase
 - \$1,750, \$3,000 or \$5,000
 - Level 1, 2, 3 = 19,5,4
 - Revenue ≈ \$68,250 (+\$12,250)



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- After John presented the Membership and Fee options slides, Edie Beatty supported the \$250 increase in the current Level 1/Basic from \$1,500 to \$1,750. She also supported creation of a middle tier for SUs that may want to continue or start their local warehouse, but not be ready to do everything that the 'premium' level offers.
- John used Rutland Northeast and Washington South as two examples of SUs that might use the new middle tier differently but still get benefit from it.
- Bob Owens (Co-chair, Addison Northwest) stressed that if the VDC moved to three membership levels clear descriptions would need to be written to help SUs decide.
- There was general discussion and concern if there is time for John to do 'per diem' days if all current members renew their memberships and there is significant interest in help with the new data collection.
- Vince Gonillo suggested providing info to the field and then have the Data Coordinator survey the VDC membership about interest in 'per diem' days to gauge demand.
- Dean Pallozzi (Lamoille South) brought the discussion back to the membership levels by saying he supported Option #3 (create new membership level and \$250 increase in Level 1).
- Chris Kibbe suggested that we survey VDC membership about adding a membership level, but we would need to be clear about the purpose of the middle tier.
- Bill Kimball told the group that if Option #3 estimates were on target plus revenue 'per diem' work on tasks like the new DOE data collection and some support for DASH, the VDC would be close to closing its budget shortfall.
- As the discussion continued generally support Option #3, Bill Kimball moved that we should close the general meeting and start the Board meeting.
- It was also determined that there was not enough time or a quorum of VDC SU representatives to vote on a new, FY12 VDC Board. Therefore, the current FY11 Board will conduct the meeting and vote on a new service and fee structure, and the VDC Data Coordinator will send out a FY12 Board vote electronically.
- **Board Meeting:**
 - Chris Kibbe moved to survey the VDC members about Option #3 and 'per diem' days. The motion was seconded and moved to discussion.
 - During the discussion, Brucie Donahue offered a 'friendly amendment' that the Board adopt Option #3 with a well-defined middle tier and only survey on the 'per diem' days. This was seconded, moved to discussion and was brought to vote.
 - The VDC Board unanimously adopted Option #3 with a well-defined middle tier and to survey the VDC members on their interest in 'per diem' day services.



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- The VDC Board also asked the Data Coordinator to communicate the Board decisions on membership levels, 'per diem' days and DASH to the Department of Education, so they were aware of the current state of the VDC as part of our partnership.