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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dennis L. Bybee, Ph.D.
Vice President And Executive Director
Global Village Schools Institute
P. O. Box 4463
Alexandria, VA 22303
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July 2, 1997

Irene Flannery
FCC
Common Carrier Bureau
FAX: 202-418-7361
2100 M Street, NW
Room 8922
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Irene:

This is an "ex parte" filing in the matter of CC Docket 97-21. We hereby provide notice that on June 18, 1997 a diverse group of interested parties (see list on attached letter) met with you and James Rubin of the FCC at your office and discussed questions provided to you and also filed as an attachment to our "ex parte" filing on CC Docket 97-21 by letter of June 17, 1997 -- see attached.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Bybee, Ph.D.
VP & Executive Director

cc: FCC Secretary for Filing
on CC Docket 97-21

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June 17, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Irene Flannery
FCC
Common Carrier Bureau
FAX: 202-418-7361
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Irene:

The attached list of concerns and questions about implementation of the new Universal Service Order and rules for school and library discounts is provided for your consideration as an "ex parte" filing on CC Docket 97-21. This filing is provided by the following diverse group of interested parties who will meet with you on June 18, 1997 to discuss these questions:

Andrew Magpantay, America Library Association
Steve Yurek, National Association of Secondary School Principals
L. Westley, National School Boards Association
Jeff Burnett, National Association of Independent Schools
Sally Shake, Education Legislative Services
D. Bybee, Global Village Schools Institute
Mary Henze, Bell South, Inc.
Marvin Bailey, Ameritech, Inc.
BB Nugent, US West , Inc.
Rick Cimerman, National Cable Television Association
Jim Lambertson, NYNEX, Inc.
Steve Kohn, NYNEX, Inc.

Thank you for your consideration of these essential implementation questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Bybee, Ph.D.
VP & Executive Director

N.E.T. Group Comments/Questions for the FCC Meeting on June 18, 1997

In several informal and open meetings of diverse parties interested in Universal Service for schools and libraries, critical questions have been raised about how the FCC intends to develop procedures for administering the new rules that it adopted for Universal Service in its May 7, 1997 Order.

The general concern expressed in these meetings is that there is an immediate need for the Commission to establish an official point of contact and procedure whereby interested parties can obtain answers to questions they have about the Order and its implementation. The question here is --

Q To whom should questions about the Universal Service Order and its implementation be addressed; and, more importantly, from whom, when and where will authoritative answers be provided?

Participants also expressed a more specific concern that major administrative procedures need to be developed quickly and with broad input in order to implement the Commission's Universal Service Order during school year 1997-98. The questions here are --

Q What process will be used to develop implementing procedures? And, what roles will the FCC, US Department of Education, NECA, EdLiNC, service providers, and/or others play in helping develop these procedures, application forms, etc. in a timely manner?

Q How can the FCC or its Universal Service Fund administrator ensure that all interested school and library consumer advocates, potential service providers, and others have input into the process of developing implementing procedures and resolving associated issues as they are surfaced in the process?

Q In view of the widespread interest among eligible entities and potential service providers and the limited information and understanding that they currently have about the new Universal Service Fund for schools and libraries, what information resource, program outreach, awareness and user training activities does the FCC intend to implement?

Q Will there be an opportunity for public comment on recommendations that the FCC requested from the US Department of Education in its May 7, 1997 Order?

Q When will NECA be authorized to begin its work as the Universal Services Fund Administrator?

And finally, the following critical question is provided for discussion as an example of the kind of information and "answers" that are needed immediately --

Q What is the discount eligibility status of telecommunications service contracts that are being negotiated now by schools and libraries? Many schools and libraries are concerned that they might not get discounts on services provided under contracts signed before the new Universal Service program goes into effect; and, are deciding not to sign telecommunications services contracts until they are sure that discounts will apply. The lack of clarification and written interpretation of the intended rules with respect to discount eligibility on "current contracts" is having a chilling effect on contracting activities throughout the United States.