



November 29, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Meetings in WC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, 02-6

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On November 15, 2012, Russell Selken and I met with Nicholas Degani of Commissioner Pai's office. We discussed Mr. Selken's qualifications for the nomination to the USAC board as a schools' representative, as set forth in the SECA nomination letter and the various letters submitted in support of his nomination. We also described the SECA organization as set forth in the attached fact sheet.

We apologize for submitting this late notice as we did not realize that the board nominations public notice (DA12-1469) initiated a "permit but disclose proceeding" until the matter was brought to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra M. Kriete".

Debra M. Kriete, Esq.  
South Dakota E-rate Coordinator

cc: Nicholas Degani

Enclosure



- SECA comprises 98 individual members who provide statewide E-rate coordination activities in 46 states and 2 U.S. territories.
- We are the only E-rate applicant group that works directly with applicants on a day-to-day basis and guide them through the mechanics of filing E-rate forms and complying with program rules. Many of our members have firsthand experience with forms filing and program compliance because we are E-rate applicants ourselves.
- SECA members typically provide more than 1300 hours of E-rate training workshops annually to E-rate applicants and service providers.
- SECA members spend thousands of hours offering daily E-rate assistance to individual applicants through calls and e-mails.
- SECA members serve as intermediaries between the applicant and service provider communities, the Administrator, and the FCC.
  - Verification of an applicant's school eligibility status to the Administrator's Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Group;
  - Verification to the Administrator of applicable state laws confirming eligibility of certain applicant groups;
  - Contact of last resort for applicants by the Administrator;
  - Verification point for National School Lunch Program numbers for applicants.
- Numerous members of SECA work for and apply for E-rate on behalf of large, statewide networks and consortia that further Congress' and the FCC's goals of providing universal access to modern telecommunications services to schools and libraries across the nation.
- We have a private, extremely active list serve which we use to discuss E-rate issues that applicants experience. We frequently are the first group to identify situational patterns and identify issues and problems concerning the administration of the program. We bring these matters to the attention of the SLD (and FCC as may be appropriate) in order to ensure that they are aware of and address these issues.
- We have weekly internal conference calls during which we discuss issues and solutions. We have monthly calls with the FCC and SLD based on an agenda we develop that includes questions and topics of current concern.
- We communicate with other stakeholder groups to encourage consensus, if possible, when presenting issues and proposed solutions to the FCC and SLD.
- We are a resource to the FCC and SLD to convey the E-rate applicants' perspective.
- We rely full time on our members' volunteer activities and do not have any paid staff.
- Our members are funded completely from state or local school budgets with no administrative funds coming from USF.
- We provide information but specifically refrain from any lobbying activities.

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