

**Wyoming School-University Partnership  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 22, 2009  
10:10 – 2:00 p.m.**

**UW Outreach Center, Casper  
951 North Poplar  
307.261.2250**

**Present**

Board members in attendance: Dave Barker, Joel Dvorak, Paige Fenton-Hughes, Bob Gates, Tracey Kinney, Mike Klopfenstein, Kay Persichitte, Ray Schulte, and Audrey Shalinsky.

Also attending: Audrey Kleinsasser and Tara Reiter-Marolf, Partnership staff, and guests: Superintendent Diana Clapp, Fremont County #6, and Mark Stock, UW College of Education.

**Introductions**

Chair Dave Barker called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**Review and Approve**

Today's meeting agenda was approved with one change. The election of a chair-elect will occur at the next board meeting. Joel Dvorak moved to approve, Ray Schulte seconded approving today's agenda and minutes from the April 17, 2009 meeting. All concurred.

**Report to the Governing Board from the Executive Committee's May 18 retreat and Director's 2008-2009 Performance Evaluation Information**

Dave began the discussion by reporting out from the executive committee meeting in Guernsey, May 18, 2009. Part of the meeting was spent looking at Partnership objectives for the upcoming 2009-2010 year in conjunction with the past year's work. Two documents were reviewed, a SWOT exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) about the Partnership and the director's performance objectives for 2009-2010 year. Dave asked for comments and questions. Mike Klopfenstein commented that the level and quality of Partnership communication has increased steadily. Dave asked for thoughts on the content and detail of material in the governing board packets. Kay Persichitte stated that since the board meets quarterly, the detail in the packets is necessary, and important to be in hard copy format.

**Schedule 2009-2010 meetings**

The board set meeting dates for the 2009-2010 year. All meetings are scheduled for Casper with the meeting location to be announced later.

- Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 28, 2010, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday, April 8, 2010, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday, July 22, 2010, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**NNER Grounding, Daynes chapter, “Making Moral Systems of Education,” from *Education and the Making of a Democratic People***

Dave began The Agenda for Education in a Democracy grounding by asking, “How hard would it be to pull in everyone – community, church, business – for common work on a school issue?”

Paige Fenton-Hughes shared a recent “excellence initiative” started by her school board. Paige’s role in the initiative involved reaching out to community businesses. She asked business owners to take high school employees off shift closings on school nights and to require copies of high school transcripts when hiring students. Business owners reacted positively, but only one signed up to follow through with the initiative. The feeling she was left with was that if the school community started these initiatives, people liked the idea but were not necessarily eager to participate. Dave mentioned that there needs to be a way for these initiatives to come from the community and not the school.

Mike Klopfenstein described a community meeting that Laramie County #1 had this past April. A large mix of organizations and individuals were invited, topics were discussed, and feedback generated. Over 500 ideas were collected on ways to deal with challenges facing the school district. But, the focus of the 500 responses did not have anything to do with helping students become better citizens.

Dave ended the discussion by stating that topics on democracy in education are really about responsibility. How do educators teach democracy to students if they themselves are not involved? Modeling is very important as well.

**Review and approve bill payment**

Joel Dvorak moved to accept and pay April 18-July 22 Partnership bills, with a second from Kay Persichitte. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Updates: Around the Partnership; Around the NNER**

Dave distributed copies of the Partnership constitution to board members. The constitution has not been reviewed or revised since 2003. He asked that board members review the document before the November 2009 meeting, and prepare to revisit the topic then.

Dave asked Audrey to address Partnership updates. Audrey started by discussing the upcoming Reading Institute in Laramie September 13-14, 2009. Pre-registration is available at <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/LRN/readinginstitute.htm>. Building on discussions at the 2008 and 2009 Teaching Writing in Wyoming colloquiums, this institute will offer helpful information on current reading practices and pedagogical strategies for teachers across disciplines. Audrey then overviewed the annual NNER Conference scheduled for Bellevue, WA, October 15-17, 2009. Twenty-nine Wyoming presenters have received scholarships through the Partnership and the Office of Teacher Education, a total of \$21,000. After the October conference, a statewide conference will be planned for all scholarship recipients to present and attend. Audrey also explained the upcoming NAME (National Association for Multicultural Education) conference in Denver on October 31, 2009. Travel support will be available for Wyoming educators who would like to attend and who can make it to Laramie or Cheyenne for travel to Denver and back, October 31. Registration to receive more information about the conference and travel support is available at [https://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wsuf\\_forms/NAME.asp](https://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wsuf_forms/NAME.asp).

**Increasing Student, Parent, Community Voice by Using Institutional Websites, Mark Stock:  
The Blogging Educational Leader**

Mark Stock, author of *The School Administrator's Guide to Blogging*, and University of Wyoming Assistant Professor, presented a series of blogs and websites to the board. Mark was invited to guide the session as social media are another way for schools to encourage the participation of all constituents. Mark emphasized that some people who would not step into a school, or call the superintendent, would use a blog to register a thought or suggestion. He also emphasized that blog users tend to monitor each other. If an extreme comment is posted, follow up postings are likely to counter act the extreme. Partnership districts were featured, including Platte #2, Goshen #1 and Laramie #1.

**Evaluation of today's meeting and adjournment**

Meeting evaluation feedback forms were distributed, completed, and collected. Dave Barker adjourned the meeting at 2:00.