**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**Casper, Wyoming**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**

**10:06 a.m. – 1:08 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

Governing Board Members

Mike Beard (Superintendent, Platte 2), Boyd Brown (Superintendent, Campbell 1), Greg Brown (Associate Dean, UW College of Arts and Sciences), Andrea Bryant (Executive Director, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board), Jean Chrostoski (Superintendent, Goshen 1), Diana Clapp (Superintendent, Fremont 6), Dennis Fischer (Superintendent, Platte 1), Joe McCann (Program Team Manager, Wyoming Community College Commission, by conference call), Shon Hocker (Superintendent, Big Horn 1), Paige Fenton Hughes (Coordinator, Wyoming State Board of Education), Kevin Mitchell (Superintendent, Park 1, by conference call), Brent Notman (Principal, representative for Converse 1), Ray Reutzel (Dean, UW College of Education, by conference call), Ray Schulte (Superintendent, Park 6), Tracy Stibitz (GEAR UP Consultant, Wyoming Department of Education, by conference call), Kathy Vetter (President, Wyoming Education Association), Walt Wilcox (Assistant Superintendent, Natrona 1), Marty Wood (Principal, representative for Niobrara 1), and Rick Woodford (Superintendent, Big Horn 2, by conference call).

Guests

Joel Dvorak (Wyoming Department of Education Consultant), Dana Robertson (Executive Director, UW Literacy Research Center and Clinic, by conference call), and Bruce Thoren (Superintendent, Fremont 24).

Staff

Audrey Kleinsasser (Director), Kara Duggan (Office Associate).

Diana Clapp, Partnership chair, convened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. She welcomed all in attendance and asked each to share his or her name and position and had a brief ice breaker.

Diana then turned to the items on the consent agenda. She asked for a motion to approve. Boyd Brown moved and Kathy Vetter seconded the motion. Following a brief overview of the materials by Audrey Kleinsasser, board members voted to approve the consent agenda.

Audrey Kleinsasser gave a synopsis of the director’s activities and the financial report. She mentioned that the Partnership budget is small, and the majority of the expenses are on personnel. She also informed the governing board of that the Wyoming P-16 Council officially disbanded and wrote a $28,099.80 check to the Partnership. The Partnership plans to use the money for its Lost in Transition Initiative. Also, Audrey told the group that in six to eight weeks (end of January, 2016) the Partnership will receive approximately $26,000 from John Goodlad’s Institute for Educational Inquiry. With that money, the Partnership becomes the administrative and fiduciary home for the League of Democratic Schools.

Next, Diana introduced Dana Robertson, the executive director of the UW Literacy Research Center and Clinic, who had joined the meeting by conference call. Dana gave a summary of the LRCC’s primary goal of state outreach and four statewide research and professional development initiatives. Those initiatives are:

* K-3 Professional Development
* Clinical Professional Development/Outreach
* Family Literacy/Early Literacy Professional Development
* Adolescent Disciplinary Literacy Professional Development

The governing board was interested in Dana’s information, specifically about the development of regional satellite locations for the LRCC as well as how the LRCC can help individual students who are struggling with literacy. Dana urged anyone who has questions or ideas for the LRCC to contact him.

Next Diana introduced Joel Dvorak, a consultant for the Wyoming Department of Education, who gave the governing board an overview of the Wyoming State Board of Education sponsored initiative, Development of a Statewide System of Support. Joel began with a brief history leading to the state’s need to create a system of support. The goal of the system is to bring statewide education agencies together to collaborate and align their goals and strategies. Also, currently the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act has identified underperforming schools, but there is no system to support and help the those schools.

When Joel asked for questions or comments, in particular key groups or persons who might not be included, Rick Woodford suggested Joel talk to Geri Fitzgerald from AdvancED, and Audrey K. suggested he talk to the Wyoming School Counselor Association.

Next, Diana turned the group’s attention to recommendations from the ad hoc committee examining the Partnership’s membership structure. She quickly overviewed the charge of the committee, and provided a summary of the ad hoc committee’s meetings and recommendations to the governing board. She informed the group that the overall goal of committee was to create a dues structure that maximized equity for school district members, regardless of district size.

Walt Wilcox, a member of the committee, added that the committee initially looked at all Partnership members, including the university, the community colleges, and the agencies. For now, the committee decided to focus solely on the school districts.

Diana and Audrey K also reminded the group that the Partnership does not charge for Lost in Transition meetings, and we don’t plan to charge for the upcoming ESL conference. With the membership of the PTSB, WDE, and WEA, all K-16 instructors are represented in the Partnership. Also, if we started charging for the events, university and community college faculty are less likely to attend, since the funds they do receive for professional development are more likely to go toward national meetings.

Diana then directed the group’s attention to three dues models the committee recommended and briefly explained each. Committee members viewed the $4,000 cap as reasonable for the state’s largest districts. The challenge for the committee was creating a structure that didn’t price out the smallest districts while not overburdening the largest.

Audrey then provided a short historical context emphasizing that the Partnership started with only six districts that paid $10,000 each. Within a few years, that model proved unsustainable. To counter the problem of too few districts belonging, Partnership leadership then swung to the opposite extreme, emphasizing district inclusivity at very minimum amounts. She commented that the strongest membership peaked at 22-24 school districts. She also mentioned that geography may negatively impact membership as school districts in the extreme southwest and northeast have been involved to a minimal degree.

Diana brought up the fact that parallel to the membership structure conversation is the conversation about the purpose of the Partnership, and what the Partnership does and could deliver to its members. Diana then asked for the thoughts of the governing board.

Boyd Brown said he appreciated the work, but wondered about the $4,000 cap. He thought it might be too low for the big school districts.

Walt agreed that the cap might be too low, and also said that he has had conversations on whether or not larger school districts that send a larger group of people to a Partnership event should have to contribute more for the additional participants. Andrea Bryant also worried that such a structure would be a disincentive for other people to go to the meeting. Dennis Fischer commented that collecting and processing registration fees would demand more time and effort for the meeting planners.

Diana urged governing board members to take the models back to their school districts, continue to think about the recommendation, and let Audrey or her know their opinions. She stated the group needed to have a candid conversation about the recommendations and make a decision at the Thursday, January 28, 2016 meeting.

Kathy Vetter also added that the more money the Partnership had to work with, the more it could do. Bruce Thoren superintendent of Fremont 24, and guest at the meeting, observed that the new structure might appeal to the smaller school districts.

After the discussion about the ad hoc committee’s work, Diana called for a break for lunch.

After lunch, Diana reconvened the meeting and asked Audrey K to highlight updates around the Partnership. Audrey reminded the group that the Partnership will become the administrative and fiduciary home for the League of Democratic Schools. The Partnership will receive a transfer of about $26,000 from the Institute of John Goodlad’s Educational Inquiry, the current home of the League of Democratic Schools, to deposit into a UW Foundation account. The next step is for the IEI’s Treasurer, Paula McMannon, to write a letter authorizing the transfer. In the meantime, Dorothy Lloyd, the initiative’s director, will need to inform the League members of these changes and next steps for the organization.

Audrey also confirmed that at its October1 meeting, the National Network for Educational Renewal’s governing council voted to allocate $3,000 a year, for three years, to the League to support a director’s stipend.

Finally, Audrey reminded the governing board that Wyoming has four schools in the League, UW Lab School in Laramie, Guernsey Sunrise in Guernsey, and Star Lane Center and Woods Learning Center in Casper. She added that in terms of academic achievement, UW Lab School and Woods Learning Center score among the highest of all Wyoming schools and thus provide excellent models for a League presence.

Next, Audrey directed the governing board’s attention to the Lost in Transition Initiative flyer with the dates for the Spring 2016 meetings. Also, she informed the group of that the English/language arts meeting will be sometime in the window of the February 6-8, and the social sciences meeting will be May 8-9.

Greg Brown, associate dean of UW’s College of Arts and Sciences and the chair for the UW Science Initiative, informed the board of the K16 Science Summit will be held on February 20, 2016 in Casper, the day after the Lost in Transition Science Summit. He stated that not only will science instructors be invited, but also people who work in the sciences. Also, the summit will highlight the research about the importance of active learning for science classes in comparison to passive lecture learning.

Audrey then informed the group that the Partnership was working with the Educational Studies department in UW’s College of Education to organize the first statewide ESL conference. The conference has Dean Ray Reutzel’s support as well as other departments. The conference is set for April 29-30, 2016 in Casper. Audrey expects there will be a lot of interest and strong attendance.

Audrey also briefly mentioned that the Transitions charts the Partnership created with the Wyoming P-16 Education Council and the Wyoming State Scholars Initiative some years ago are out of date. She is looking into the possibility of updating them. Part of the update would be embedding elements of the Common Core State Standards.

While the governing board discussed the Lost in Transition meetings, Audrey emphasized the importance of the mathematics Lost in Transition meeting, and informed the group that the Partnership will try to revamp the meeting to include more high school participation and enhance the conversations around math. She mentioned that Mathematics Institute planners are interested in having a two-day meeting.

The Mathematics Institute meeting is attached to the Mathematics Articulation this year. Greg Brown mentioned that the UW Mathematics Department is looking into a new math placement exam since Compass (an ACT test) is going away. He suspects the placement exam will come up at the articulation along with concurrent and dual enrollment issues.

Andrea Bryant brought up the range of endorsements instructors can earn in mathematics and sciences, as well as the new endorsement proposed in computer science for the K-12 level. Currently the proposal has been submitted to the PTSB for temporary approval. She hopes the proposal will be accepted by April, so UW can start recruitment for next year.

Joe McCann addressed the issue of increased interest in distance learning because of the new requirements for teaching concurrent enrollment. Audrey mentioned that a distance learning model, delivered through the UW Outreach School, is not always the best option because it requires a certain number of registrants, and the times of the classes are often not ideal for teachers. Andrea said that the PTSB directs people looking for online courses to <http://wyclass.wy.edu/>.

Mindful of the worsening weather and travel conditions, Diana brought the meeting to a close and reminded those in attendance to complete their evaluation forms. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Governing Board minutes prepared by Kara Duggan, November 6, 2015.

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting Evaluation Form**

**November 4, 2015**

**Session Feedback transcribed November 5, 2015**

**n= 11**

All responses from evaluation forms were transcribed exactly as written.

Not all respondents answered all questions.

1. **What from today’s meeting did you appreciate and would recommend we continue doing?**

* Literacy update and the update from Joel get people in the loop. Having Andrea here is helpful.
* Excellent schedule and agenda. Appreciate staff development opportunities. Maybe email to principal org. – supt. don’t always forward this info. ☺
* The opportunities to network. Guest speakers of relevance.
* Great to have the update on SOS from Joel.
* Another update on System of Support Init.
* The discussion of concurrent and duel credit instructors that is a real issue for us.
* Very useful information (especially for a new guy).
* I liked the networking lunch!

1. **Would you recommend any changes to improve future governing board meetings?**

* I missed a reading and a grounding.
* Enjoyed the updates. Would like a “reading” each meeting.
* N/A
* No.
* I appreciate the shift to topics of our concern. This is the best meeting I have attended.
* All good.

1. **Reactions, suggestions, recommendations, or anything else you’d like meeting planners to know?**

* Thanks for all the planning. ☺
* I was disappointed we did not have a grounding and discussion. I would find if very helpful to have a “training” from a high school/college faculty member who attended a Lost in Transition to come and present on the value of that work. To understand the agenda and then the objectives and perceptions of these participants.
* Encourage conversation from all.
* More info on Advanced Placement Courses in lieu of concurrent not being practiced for many high schools in the state after 2016 Maybe an A.P. network meeting.
* Appreciate the Lost in Transition meeting info early.
* None.
* Membership- Be sure to create a list of deliverables to attract members. The cost may not be the real issue. Survey smaller districts to fine out “what would it take?” for them to join.
* Thanks for the invite, I’m still learning the systems. Thanks.
* Fee payment 3. Great Information through the meeting materials and networking over lunch. Please think about a 45 minute break for lunch.
* Well done.

Transcribed by Kara Duggan, November 5, 2015