

**Wyoming School-University Partnership
Governing Board Meeting
April 8, 2010**

Minutes

Present:

Board Members: Karen Bard, Dave Barker, Bob Bryant, Paige Fenton-Hughes, Michelle Hoffman, Rick Luchsinger, Kay Persichitte, Ray Schulte.

Partnership Staff: Audrey Kleinsasser, Brenna Wanous.

Guests: Anita Drever and Tom Furgeson of Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WySAC).

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Dave Barker called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Dave welcomed all and invited each to introduce him or herself and share their thoughts on the University of Wyoming's cancellation of William Ayer's visit, lecture, and the Partnership's scheduled conference call limited to 15 principals and district-level administrators. Board members shared their reactions and how the series of events relates to principles and practices of democracy in Wyoming schools.

Many board members agreed that the scheduled William Ayers events and aftermath displayed a level of uncomfortableness and fear in the general public with controversial issues and their impact on the moral solidarity of society, particularly children. The group's general consensus was we need to trust that our students are more intelligent critical-thinkers than we've given them credit for, and exposure to many sides of an issue is the basis for democracy. Also as leaders in school districts, institutions, and communities, it is our responsibility to facilitate democratic and civil discussion on issues such as these.

Minutes and Financial Report:

The first order of business was to review and approve the meeting agenda, along with consent agenda items including the January 28, 2010 meeting minutes and the February-March Partnership bills. Kay Persichitte moved to approve minutes and financial support, Michelle Hoffman seconded.

Adoption of 2010-2011 Budget:

Dave Barker presented the proposed budget for FY11 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). The budget contains one significant change from previous budgets; the office associate's salary and benefits were previously half-funded by the College of Education and half by through Partnership dues. This budget proposes shifting all of the salary funding responsibilities to the Partnership. Bob Bryant moved to approve the proposed budget, Rick Luchsinger seconded.

Adoption of the Proposed Constitution Revisions:

The sub-committee coordinating the Partnership Constitution revisions considered recommendations made at the January 28 governing board meeting in presenting the draft version for adoption at today's meeting. A version of the updated Constitution dated April 8, 2010 and the previous version dated May 4, 2001 were included in the governing board packets and online (WSUP Governing Board webpage: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/wsupsup/info.asp?p=14092>).

A two-thirds majority of the Governing Board is required to approve and accept the constitution revisions (i.e., 17 of the 26 voting Partnership members). There were not enough participants present at this governing board meeting to reach this majority, so an online vote will follow. Audrey Kleinsasser and Dave Barker will send an email to all governing board members including the updated constitution and a survey for board members to select "Accept" or "Decline" constitution revisions. Responses will be tallied and the decision will be relayed to the board when the majority has been reached.

2010-2011 Membership Recruitment:

The Wyoming Association of School Administrators meeting in Casper on April 23 will be a good opportunity to promote the Partnership and membership benefits to superintendents representing school districts not currently members. The Partnership has been granted a time slot for presentation; Dave Barker proposed discussing the NNER principles, how the Partnership applies those principles in school settings,

examples of return on membership dues (professional development opportunities, communications, relationship-building), and how students benefit from this work. Board members reaffirmed that highlighting the love for education and student success components of the work will inspire the group. Dave asked Audrey to suggest a short reading that might work for distributing and discussion in this venue.

Audrey also encouraged board members to talk personally with other superintendents about Partnership participation, as this kind of membership recruitment is the most effective. She encourages school district teacher and administrators to participate in Partnership activities via email and online registration opportunities.

Working Lunch: Preliminary findings of the Hathaway Longitudinal Study, WySAC

WySAC stands for the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center based at the University of Wyoming. Anita Drever and Tom Furgeson, WySAC researchers, presented the preliminary findings during a working lunch.

During the 2008 budget session, the Wyoming Legislature made a direct appropriation of \$135,000 to fund the first phase of a longitudinal study examining effects of the Hathaway Curriculum Program. The Wyoming P-16 Council contributed another \$10,000 from its funds. This first phase was a pilot study that looked at pre-Hathaway Curriculum data from a sample of five districts to create a baseline.

The study examined two questions: Does the curriculum matter? What are the long term impacts of the scholarship program on education and the work force?

Although Anita and Tom presented preliminary findings, several conclusions can be made based on the pilot. 1) Course codes vary widely and wildly making comparisons difficult; 2) The ACT test creates a gate; 3) As documented by the study, low socio-economic status students, as measured by free and reduced lunch data, are served least by the scholarship program.

The next phase of the study is a little uncertain. The 2010 Legislature included a footnote to the Wyoming Department of Education budget of \$270,000 for the work. The WDE, however, does not have the required resources to continue the study, through WySAC. The WDE is suggesting that Geir Solvang, data analyst for the Hathaway Scholarship Program, and his assistant, might be able to answer questions posed by the study through data already being collected and analyzed.

Anita and Tom can be contacted by email at adrever@uwyo.edu and furgesta@uwyo.edu.

Election of 2010-2011 Officers

Dave Barker will serve as the Partnership president for one more year and also serve on the NNER's Governing Council. Ray Schulte will continue in his post as former president. Rick Luchsinger, Audrey Shalinsky, and Audrey Kleinsasser will continue as representatives to the NNER's Tripartite Council. Paige Fenton Hughes was asked and agreed to serve as the president elect, beginning July, 2011. The Partnership's executive committee is composed of these office holders and the Partnership's director.

Updates: NNER, Partnership, and Other Reports

NNER: Paige Fenton Hughes, Kevin Roxas, and Francisco Rios will be attending the NNER 2010 Summer Symposium in Seattle, Washington, this July. The Partnership will support their participation by paying the \$750 registration for each. Additionally, October is the national NNER conference in Normal, Illinois, October 7-9. Proposals for presentations are due on June 15. Audrey Kleinsasser will facilitate a conference call in May to help flesh out presentation ideas for those interested in presenting, though there is no monetary support for registration, travel, or lodging.

Partnership: The League of Democratic Schools held a conference in Casper on March 25-26 for 48 (predominantly Casper-based) educators. Dorothy Lloyd, Director of the National League of Democratic Schools and Judy MacDonald, Rocky Mountain/Plains Regional Director for the League also participated. A goal for the Wyoming League is to include more schools from more regions of Wyoming in conversations around League membership and benefits. Jennifer Grooms coordinates the Wyoming initiative.

The life sciences site swap pilot event has completed its first half of the swap at the UW and will complete the second half on April 20 in Saratoga and Hanna (Carbon County School District #2). See the Partnership's April 2010 newsletter for more information on the pilot program. Thus far the event has been very successful. The Partnership is hoping to roll this program out to other districts and disciplines for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Partnership is also hosting two transitions institutes in April. The "Institute for Reading and Writing Instruction: Developing Social Media Across the Curriculum" in Sheridan on April 16. Registration has been maxed out and coordinators are now taking names for a waiting list. The "Institute for World Language Instruction" on April 18-19 in Casper will be the first statewide meeting for this content area. Registration has reached approximately 25, with an anticipated attendance number around 40.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Dave Barker asked the board to complete its meeting evaluation forms. The board meeting adjourned at 1:35pm. The executive committee met after the general board meeting to complete the Partnership director's performance review.

Notes prepared by Brenna Wanous.

April 8, 2010 Governing Board Meeting Feedback Responses Summary

How valuable is it for you that we include opportunities to learn in governing board meetings?

All responses indicated a high level of appreciation for opportunities to learn from and share with other board members.

List three things you thought were important about today's meeting:

Responses included:

- the opportunity to discuss topics of great relevance, namely the Bill Ayers issue and Hathaway Scholarship study;
- the opportunity to generally converse with fellow superintendents in an informal setting;
- learning about the site swap program; and
- completing business tasks (e.g., constitution revisions).