

**Wyoming School-University Partnership
Governing Board Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2008
10:00 – 1:20 p.m.**

**Casper College
Strausner Student Center, Room CE 217
Casper, Wyoming**

Present

Board Members in attendance: Dave Barker, Mike Hejtmanek, Mike Klopfenstein, Jim Lowham, Joy Mockelmann, Kay Persichitte, Audrey Shalinsky, Ray Schulte, Carmen Simone, and Oliver Walter.

Also attending: Audrey Kleinsasser, Kelli Pribanic, and Jenni Lockett, Partnership staff; and guest Brent Pickett, UW/CC Associate Dean.

Introductions

Jim Lowham called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Casper College President Walter Nolte welcomed attending members to Casper College.

Review and Approve

Today's meeting agenda and the February 28, 2008 Governing Board meeting minutes were approved with no discussion. Kay Persichitte moved to approve with a second from Dave Barker. All concurred.

NNER grounding activity, "Continuity and Change in the Pursuit of a Democratic Public Mission for Our Schools" by Thomas Bellamy and John Goodlad, in *Phi Delta Kappan International*

Mike Hejtmanek began by asking if the Partnership should encourage more participation in the League of Democratic Schools. The Partnership allocates support for four school members and pays one half of the \$500 member dues to the Institute for Educational Inquiry.

Members discussed the democratic principles around which teaching and learning should occur, but also noted that much teaching emphasizes meeting Adequate Yearly Progress requirements. Attendees questioned if educational renewal for a democratic mission is still possible and discussed the challenges of local contexts facing school for gaining control and impacting school renewal. Audrey Kleinsasser noted that the Partnership's transitions work reveals that teachers support democratic principles in education and want to prepare students as citizens ready to participate in their worlds. Dave Barker reiterated participation and emphasized broadening educational collaboration to communities.

The advantages and disadvantages of policy mandates for school-university partnerships were discussed in response to the article. Policy serves as a problem-solving tool, but problem-framing and the differences between passion-driven and compliance-driven work were discussed as implications for truly resolving educational problems. Members continued the discussion around community involvement and its role in educational renewal, entertaining the idea of community as a

possible fourth member of an expanded tri-partite educational framework. However, defining community is difficult and parental involvement in an education community is hardly representative. Defining a purpose and communicating that purpose is essential for encouraging greater parent participation in the school community.

The questions were posed, “Are educators really involved in the cross-hairs of dialogue about public education issues? Are we acting like we should?” Those public education issues were mentioned as peripheral to the national problem-framing and political radar. An over-centralized education system was also discussed as an inhibitor to local decision-making, which therefore affects student achievement.

In closing, including a fourth member in the tri-partite framework was revisited. Responses included the need for making a stronger, more meaningful education institution, making personal connections in masses, the need to develop community rather than simply deal with it, and offering training on how to bridge the gaps between divergent populations as necessary for expanding the framework in which educational renewal is possible.

Review and approve bill payment

Mike Hejtmanek moved to accept and pay March and April Partnership bills, with a second by Audrey Shalinsky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2008-2009 Budget

Audrey Kleinsasser began by explaining the working assumptions of the budget and noted the increase in dues for K-12 school districts and community colleges, as well as the increase in payment to the communications consultant. Also mentioned was increasing Wyoming Department of Education dues to support transitions work. Mike Hejtmanek asked about reactions to the K-12 increase. There were none when the budget was proposed at the February 28 meeting in Cheyenne. Mike asked when the Department of Education dues increase would occur and suggested a greater cost share by the Department of Education could help alleviate the cost burden.

Joy Mockelmann asked about letters to non-member districts as recruiting tools. The Partnership director sends letters and information about the Partnership to targeted non-member school districts, but talking with members is the most powerful recruiting method. Dave Barker proposed constructing and sending surveys to non-members about reasons for not participating. Ray Schulte suggested identifying specific non-member superintendents to ask what is missing from Partnership membership. Mike Hejtmanek said he suspects non-member superintendents think they will get little for their money, while Ray Schulte mentioned that time was probably more meaningful than money and that the time value of membership is not readily seen.

Audrey Kleinsasser asked if the Partnership impact map, science summits report, and dues structure would be helpful to disseminate. Many attendees thought these documents were helpful and interesting, but sending all three would be too much. Audrey will follow up with Ray Schulte, Mike Hejtmanek, Dennis Wilson, and Richard Strahorn about disseminating select documents to superintendents in the state’s southeast and northwest corners, the most underrepresented areas. Audrey also plans to attend the first superintendents’ meeting this upcoming fall to share information about the Partnership. With no further discussion, Joy Mockelmann moved to approve the budget and was seconded by Kay Persichitte. All concurred and the budget was accepted.

Updates: Partnership Initiatives

Mike Hejtmanek mentioned teachers from Washakie County School District #1 that attended the regional life sciences summit in Worland enjoyed the event. Audrey Kleinsasser reported on the Writing in Wyoming Colloquium, April 18-19 in Douglas. Issues discussed at the workshop included the homework disparity between high school and college and reasons for that disparity. Jim Lowham noted the difference in format between the writing workshop and the life sciences summits. Audrey Kleinsasser affirmed those differences and said that planning for the writing workshop was primarily handled by higher ed representatives and was not as collaborative across levels as it was for life sciences summits.

Although no dates have been set for next year's summits, possible locations for summits include Powell, Rock Springs, and Cheyenne. Jim noted the transitions work as important for building a P-16 community and that greater responsibility for the work should be assumed by the P-16 Council. However, there is no P-16 Council funding currently available for the work. Joy Mockelmann suggested UW's Gear-UP program as a possible partner, while Jim suggested a legislative component for funding. Joy Mockelmann sees federal funding as accessible.

Audrey Kleinsasser reported that the Partnership will sponsor Jennifer Grooms and Jayne Wingate's participation in the Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., June 18-19, 2008. She also called for a fourth participant in the NNER Summer Symposium in Seattle, WA, July 14-17, 2008. Dave Barker and Ed Janak registered and Joy Mockelmann is considering. No meeting attendees responded to the call for participation.

Lunch

Brent Pickett, UW/CC Associate Dean, joined board members for lunch. As lunch concluded, the Partnership presented a book of accolades from members and friends of the Partnership to Jim Lowham to celebrate his retirement. Ray Schulte, Kay Persichitte, and Audrey Shalinsky read aloud the comments they wrote for Jim and the rest were given to him to read at his convenience. Audrey Kleinsasser then presented Jim with a book as an additional gift of thanks for the leadership he has provided to the Partnership.

Election of officers, 2008-2009

Trish Cook, although unable to attend, assumed leadership as the Partnership chair. Ray Schulte accepted resuming as past-chair. Calls for chair-elect were taken. Joy Mockelmann nominated Dave Barker and he accepted.

Evaluation of today's meeting and check out

In an effort to avoid unfavorable weather, the executive committee will meet via conference call May 22nd rather than at the conclusion of today's meeting to conduct the director's annual performance review. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21 at the UW Outreach Center in Casper from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Meeting notes prepared by Kelli Pribanic.