

**Wyoming School-University Partnership
Governing Board Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

In attendance: Dave Barker (Platte #2), Bob Bryant (WDE), Judy Ellsworth (UW College of Education), Kathy Hitt (Fremont #1), Michelle Hoffman (Fremont #14), Paige Fenton Hughes (WDE), David Nicholas (Washakie #1), Kay Persichitte (UW College of Education), Ray Schulte (Goshen #1), Audrey Shalinsky (UW College of Arts and Sciences), Marlene Tignor (Laramie County Community College), John Weigel (Converse #1).

Guest: John Anderson

Staff: Audrey Kleinsasser, Heather Yates

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

President Dave Barker convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m., welcoming those in attendance. Dave asked each to introduce him or herself and tell what they do. Also, he asked each to tell one exciting story about summer activities or plans. Travel, family outings, renewal characterized the responses, including summer reading suggestions. The book, *Inevitable Mass Customized Learning: Learning in the Age of Empowerment* by Charles Schwahn and Beatrice McGarvey (2011) was noted by Paige Fenton Hughes.

2. Review and approve today's meeting agenda

The first order of business was to review and approve the meeting agenda. Bob Bryant moved to approve the agenda and Kay Persichitte seconded. By approving the agenda, members also approved the April 7, 2011 meeting minutes, Partnership bills, and financial report.

3. Partnership and NNER grounding activity

Dave Barker introduced John Anderson so he could update board members about the school-community engagement initiative and collect feedback and suggestions. John is well-known to many in the Wyoming School-University Partnership for his work with the NNER Governing Council and as a recent political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. John guided a panel discussion of Hugh Hecló's *On Thinking Institutionally* at the 2010 Wyoming In Praise of Education conference in Casper. John has re-located back to Wyoming and will be teaching several online courses from Pinedale for the UW Department of Political Science. He also will be working with the Partnership to launch a school-community engagement initiative. The Governing Board approved \$5,000 for the initiative during its April 14 board meeting. The NNER has allocated \$3,000. John and Audrey K. are working on additional funding and will be contacting several foundations and agencies.

Dave invited John to overview the initiative and answer questions. As the initiative is firmly anchored in NNER principles and practices, the better than one-hour discussion served as the meeting's NNER grounding activity.

Many questions revolved around teacher time and already full schedules. Would there be enough teachers willing to guide the projects? How might a project play out in districts with, for example, multiple elementary schools? How do students and their teacher decide on a project to pursue? John emphasized the importance of anchoring a school-community engagement project in a class that meets regularly with a teacher who is fully committed to a local concern or project. John emphasized the following point: "All really depends on the community and project as it unfolds." John added that a successful project is a great way for schools to regain any public trust that might have been lost.

Along with considerable enthusiasm and support, several major concerns emerged from the discussion. One concern was a limited amount of 2011-2012 funding for an initiative that aims to be statewide. Michelle Hoffman wondered if a more regional emphasis might not be appropriate for this first year, especially in a region where Partnership districts are grouped geographically. A second concern was the almost predictable participation of what Audrey K. described as the "usual suspects." These are very able teachers and administrators who respond to almost every Partnership call, want to participate, and participate successfully. Both John and Audrey assured board members that the selection process would keep that in mind, making sure that new participants would be encouraged. Audrey K. then asked board members to write down names of possible teachers and principals so they could be contacted for the project's kick off informational conference call. At the same time, Audrey K. confirmed that the opportunity would be available only in districts that are members of the Wyoming School-University Partnership. Finally, board members encouraged John and Audrey K. to include information that emphasizes future possibilities for wider participation in more districts after the project's 2011-2012 launch.

As the discussion lasted until almost 11:45 a.m., Dave invited board members to take a break and enjoy their lunches. He reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

4. Setting the 2011-2012 Meeting Calendar

Following lunch, board members turned to setting the 2011-2012 meeting calendar. Paige Fenton Hughes, the incoming board chair, led the discussion by over-viewing past practices and possible changes. Board members agreed to a minimum of four quarterly meetings with the possibility of a fifth to be scheduled later, as needed. In order to promote stronger attendance by current board members, recruit new members to the Partnership, and be mindful of difficult winter driving conditions, the following schedule was set:

- **Wednesday, November 3**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Casper; with the possibility of a dinner meeting the evening before and mini-retreat the next day, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 19**, 90-minute WEN meeting TBD but during the regular 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. time block; with an emphasis on inviting potential new board members
- **Thursday, April 5**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Casper
- **Thursday, July 12**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Casper

5. Leadership and Council Assignments

Dave Barker's two-year term as board chair came to a close with this meeting. He invited nominations for the chair-elect position. Kay Persichitte nominated Diana Clapp; Michelle Hoffman seconded the motion. All were in favor and Diana was elected unanimously. Paige Fenton Hughes becomes the chair for a 2011-2013 term.

Dave then asked Audrey K. to explain the Partnership's representation to two NNER councils. Dave is the current representative of the Governing Council and will continue in that role. There will be some changes to the Partnership's representation to the Tripartite Council. While Audrey S. will continue to represent arts and sciences, Kathy Hitt will begin a term as the K-12 representative. Audrey K. is the current representative to the teacher education group but suggested that it might be appropriate to invite Allen Trent to serve in that capability since he will become the College of Education's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in August, 2011. The board concurred and asked Audrey K. to contact Allen about his willingness to serve. Rick Luchsinger completed a term as the K-12 representative to the Tripartite Council and the board offered its thanks.

6. Updates: Around the NNER; Around the Partnership; and other reports

Dave then asked Audrey K. to briefly discuss items in the board packet. There were several questions about work of the Wyoming P-16 Education Council, in particular, implementation of the Common Core Curriculum in Wyoming and the Wyoming Legislature's Select Committee on Educational Accountability. Diana Clapp serves on the advisory committee as does James Bailey. Audrey K. will be attending meetings as the UW representative on hand to answer questions about higher education's role. Several board members requested clarification about a letter under NNER letterhead in response to reports from the National Council on Teacher Quality. Kay Persichitte and Judy Ellsworth overviewed the central issues and UW's response over several years to queries from the NCTQ. Most recently, UW has elected not to participate in the NCTQ survey, a decision backed by UW President Tom Buchanan. Kay warned that the group's latest report about the quality of teacher education programs across the county was forth coming. Kay summed up by saying, "Teacher education can benefit from a more inclusive and in depth approach than that used by the NCTQ."

7. Evaluation of today's meeting and adjournment

With all of the business items completed, Chairman Dave Barker adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m., inviting board members to complete their meeting feedback forms. He thanked everyone for giving him an opportunity to serve them as chair. Kay Persichitte also thanked Judy Ellsworth for being a part of the Governing Board as UW's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies over the last three years. Everyone wished Judy good luck with her retirement plans.

Transcribed Feedback Responses
Governing Board Meeting Evaluation Form
July 14, 2011
N=6

1. What did you take away from John Anderson's presentation?
 - Excitement about the project, great idea, make sure all partner districts have the opportunity to participate
 - Examples and possibilities helped understand project, broadened my vision
 - On its way
 - Wonderful opportunity
 - Interested
 - Looking forward to work moving forward

2. Please list two things that were important or worked well in today's governing board meeting?
 - Healthy conversation (2)
 - Community engagement project (3)
 - Broad view of education
 - Updates are needed/Setting dates for next year's meetings (2)
 - Organization of packet/NNER statement
 - Grounding is always appreciated

3. What did not work well during today's meeting?
 - Nothing (6)

4. How might we improve the meeting? (e.g., board member engagement, information prior to the meeting, the meeting site, the agenda, printed materials supporting the agenda, the pace, time frame)
 - Room was cold
 - Nothing (4)
 - Great to fellowship with higher ed.

5. Is there anything else important for planners to know?
 - Good meeting (2)
 - Timely discussions

Board minutes and evaluation feedback prepared by Heather Yates.