

**Wyoming School-University Partnership
Governing Board Meeting
Friday, November 14, 2008
10:05 – 11:36 a.m.**

**BY CONFERENCE CALL
(Poor weather caused us to cancel the face-to-face meeting in Casper.)**

Present

Trish Cook, Judy Ellsworth, Bob Gates, Jean Hayek, Suzanne Perry, Kay Persichitte, Audrey Shalinsky, and Ray Schulte.

Partnership Staff: Audrey Kleinsasser, Jenni Luckett, and Tara Reiter-Marolf.
Guest: Rae Lynn Job

Introductions

Chair Trish Cook called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., followed by introductions.

Review and Approve

Today's meeting agenda and the September 24, 2008 meeting minutes were approved. Jean Hayek moved to approve with a second from Kay Persichitte.

Wyoming National Board for Certification Teaching Update

Rae Lynn Job began by asking for specific questions. Trish Cook asked about the rate of examinees not passing the NBCT in Wyoming. According to national statistics, only 48% of examinees certify in the first year. Audrey Kleinsasser added that Mike Hjetmanek, Kay Persichitte, and she are on the advisory board, and that this issue has been discussed often. Rae Lynn also said that candidates are understanding that certification is a one to three year process. Trish asked if the number of first-year candidates are increasing in Wyoming. Rae Lynn referred everyone to the packet materials and stated that there are 85-100 first-time candidates in Wyoming every year. Suzanne Perry asked how the rate of completion compares to other states. Rae Lynn said there is no available information on other states, but that Wyoming is a little under the national average for first, second and third year candidates, and is improving every year. Suzanne explained that when a candidate is unsuccessful, others see that and might not apply. Rae Lynn responded that the focus should not be on pass or fail, but on what teachers will gain from the investment they are making in themselves. The emphasis, thus, is professional development.

Trish asked about the legislative intent, and an update on funding after certification. Rae Lynn reported that the funding will continue, and that Senator Kit Jennings may propose legislation to provide a certain amount of money per year to buildings that have board certified teachers. Ray Schulte asked how many graduate credit hours candidates receive. Rae Lynn stated that the University of Wyoming will grant up to eight graduate credit hours toward a masters degree. This creates an incentive to work on the NBCT because candidates can simultaneously work on their graduate degree. Ray asked when the graduate credits are awarded. Rae Lynn responded that graduate credits are awarded during summer, fall and spring semesters. Ray asked about salary increases after teachers receive graduate degrees, and how that affects districts. Rae Lynn stated that this is nothing new, and that graduate degrees have always meant salary increases to districts.

Rae Lynn added that part of their initiative is to develop leadership. This idea has grown into a leadership and advocacy institute, with 26 participating in the Fall 2008 opportunity. There being on additional questions, Trish thanked Rae Lynn for her time with the board.

Check in, NNER Grounding and 2008 Annual Report

Trish asked Audrey to overview the report. This report included input from Audrey, Trish Cook, Ray Schulte, Dave Barker, Kay Persichitte, and Audrey Shalinsky. Audrey K. asked if there were any questions or comments. Trish asked if there were any specific items that needed special attention. Audrey K. said that the equity issue is always at the heart of the NNER, and she hopes that this will lead to more work with the Social Justice Research Center, and the Shepard Symposium for Social Justice.

Ray Schulte asked if the first item in the next steps section of the report which states, "Form a task force composed of secondary and postsecondary faculty (not administrators) to guide the philosophical grounding of Wyoming P-16 transitions," is a next step or a challenge. Audrey said that it is both, and that after the P-16 Strand conference on October 19-20, 2008, information was gathered from teachers of all levels. There was some interest in putting a task force together to continue this work, but there are other agencies with the same focus. The Partnership is unique as it brings secondary education and higher education together, which is something that no other agency does.

Ray Schulte moved to approve the report, with a second from Jean Hayek. All were in favor and the report was approved.

2009 NNER 10th Anniversary of In Praise of Education Conference

The NNER In Praise of Education 10th Anniversary conference, will occur October 15-17, 2009, in Bellevue, Washington.

Ann Foster, NNER executive director, has confirmed that the individual registration cost will be about \$300. Audrey said that the Partnership would like to create an incentive for all levels of educators in Wyoming to attend, by covering registration and travel for those interested. Additional money for registration would come from several more sources. The Partnership would put \$20,000 toward participation scholarships. The scholarship would be applied for and submitted, along with the conference proposal. This group of attendees would meet afterward to plan next steps, as this would be a long term commitment. Trish Cook stated that this would replace the fall conference in Laramie, which has taken place for the last three years in a row and costs \$4,000-\$5,000, per conference. All agreed.

Trish asked the public school faculty if this was something they would support. Kay Persichitte said that there is a difference between secondary education and higher education job expectations, and that this scholarship is a way to develop partnerships across levels. Trish said that this would be something her district would support. Jean Hayek stated that she has confidence that the WEA would support this as well, and help advertise. Audrey asked if the \$1,000 scholarship per person would be enough incentive for people. Ray stated that he wasn't sure if \$1,000 would be enough to cause action, but that it is a nice incentive. Judy Ellsworth said that the benefits to school districts need to be made clear to administrators. Jean Hayek stated that superintendents need to be informed that this is a benefit of belonging to the Partnership. Audrey said that district yearly dues are \$2,500, and if one district sends two people, they will almost have all of their money back.

Trish asked that if everyone thought this would be money well spent, if the budget proposal, as presented, could be accepted. Audrey said that the budget being voted on would only be the \$20,000, not the amount of registrations or scholarships, and that she will use this amount to leverage additional money for registration costs.

Kay Persichitte moved to accept the \$20,000 budget, allowing flexibility, with a second from Ray Schulte. All were in favor and the budget was approved. Audrey thanked everyone for their support.

Bill Payment

Ray Schulte moved to accept and pay Partnership expenses from September 24, 2008 to November 14, 2008, with a second by Kay Persichitte. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Jean Hayek's Retirement

Trish then acknowledged Jean Hayek's service on the board. Jean will receive a notebook of personal thanks, and Jeff Lockwood's book, *Six Legged Soldiers*.

Updates: Partnership Initiatives and Related Projects

Audrey reported that Guernsey High School joined the League of Democratic Schools.

Documentation in the board packet included information about attendees, expenses, and evaluation feedback from the P-16 Strand in Laramie on October 19-20, 2008. Audrey reported that the most important thing taken from this meeting was the top choice for evaluation responses, which stated, "Participate in yearly content-focused secondary to postsecondary meetings." This is the direction the Partnership is going to focus on. Trish commented that faculty from her district were extremely positive about the meeting, and brought back the comparison charts to brainstorm further on how they can be used.

Audrey pointed out the comparison chart distribution statistics, for the math, world languages and writing charts. Science and social studies charts will be printed soon. Trish asked if there were any upcoming activities concerning the transition initiative. Audrey told the board about the Teaching Writing in Wyoming Colloquium that will be on April 20, 2009 in Riverton, at Central Wyoming College, and also that the fourth Life Science Summit will occur in February, 2009.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.