**Meeting Minutes**

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**Thursday, November 8, 2012**

**10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m., UW Outreach Building, Casper**

Those in attendance included the following board members and staff:

***Governing Board Members***

*Boyd Brown (Campbell 1), Diana Clapp (Fremont 6), Paige Fenton Hughes (Partnership Chair), Kathy Hitt (Fremont 1), Kay Persichitte (UW – College of Education), Audrey Shalinsky (UW – College of Arts and Sciences), Ray Schulte (Goshen 1), Allen Trent (UW – College of Education, teacher education), and John Weigel (Converse 1)*

***By conference call***

*Gerry Chase (Sublette 9), Dan Coe (Big Horn 2, and Dee Ludwig (Eastern Community College)*

***Partnership staff***

*Audrey Kleinsasser and Beth Wiley*

Paige Fenton Hughes, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

She thanked those in attendance and those participating by conference call. Paige asked everyone to share an observation about the recent election that connected back to the Partnership value of democracy in education. Several board members observed that the recent election was in several respects divisive and disrespectful. They expressed a desire for a more civil discourse in politics. Several board members also reminisced about their first voting experience or a first voting experience for someone they knew, commenting on the excitement of living in a democracy where everyone has a potential voice.

With introductions concluded, Paige asked Audrey Kleinsasser to present the meeting agenda and supporting materials which included the financial report, the July 12 meeting minutes, and the director’s report. Audrey K. briefly explained each item. There was no further discussion. Boyd Brown moved to approve the agenda and related consent agenda items. Allen Trent seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

For the NNER/Wyoming School-University Partnership grounding, a short online PBS interview with author Bill Ivey was shown. Then, Audrey K. opened the discussion, using several questions board members had in advance, along with a transcript of the interview. Several board members commented that the issue of values inside schools is a touchy one. However, it’s impossible to avoid a discussion of values in education. Allen Trent focused on the question of whether public schools, colleges, and universities should educate to create workers or to create citizens. Several board members commented that with the push for career and college readiness, the focus appears to be on training workers. Paige observed that creating citizens has not been aligned with recent Wyoming legislative goals. When discussions arise in legislative committees about what students need to be tested on, understanding history and the U.S. and local governments are often not on the list. Audrey K. observed that her students are disengaged in school and, as a result, many of them don’t have a declared major. Gerry Chase agreed and added that in Wyoming it might be especially important to connect education to the community. Audrey Shalinsky remarked that education perhaps needed to allow for a larger definition of success beyond material gains. Ray Schulte pointed out that creating those different definitions meant engaging students on issues that are of intrinsic value for them. Educators need to spend time getting to know their students so that the work done in class can be tailored to be relevant for the students.

To conclude, Paige asked for suggestions to create an action item from this discussion. Audrey K. suggested an online discussion of Bill Ivey’s book, *Handmaking America*. Those interested should let Audrey K. or Beth Wiley know. The Partnership will provide copies of the book.

Paige then asked Audrey K. to overview a variety of materials in the board packet and discuss the NNER conference that took place October 18-20 at the Brown Palace in Denver. Audrey K. explained that the Partnership had been one of three NNER settings (including Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska at Kearney) that planned the conference. The Partnership provided scholarships for over seventy Wyoming presenters, and feedback for the conference has mostly been positive.

Then, Audrey S., Allen Trent, and Kathy Hitt reported out about the NNER Tripartite council meeting. In November, the NNER aims to have finalized the timeline for hiring a new executive director and the process for choosing the next NNER host site. Allen and Kathy both were interested in next year’s conference since the University of New Mexico (next year’s host) seems to have useful ideas about ways to identify problems in a community, use geo-mapping, and bring the community together to work on those problems.

Dee Ludwig shared that the NNER conference newcomers’ session was useful to ground her in the principles of the NNER. Diana Clapp mentioned that she made an important connection with teachers from Brooklyn College Academy in Brooklyn, New York. The teachers there have a process for teacher peer evaluation that has been successful. Diana is interested in visiting them next June to observe the peer evaluation process. Other governing board members expressed interest in the context of Wyoming’s educational accountability legislation and the inclusion of peer observations in the model.

Diana also observed that teacher evaluation is one arena in which discussions need to occur because of the coming Common Core assessments. Several board members observed that this year in Kentucky, when the Common Core assessments were implemented, the test results were about one-third lower across all grade levels. Several board members asserted that educators need to make sure they are having discussions with legislators that help government officials to understand that a change in standards will most likely result in lower achievement scores since student learning expectations are higher.

There was a short recess for lunch.

After lunch, Paige reconvened the meeting. Audrey K. brought two documents to board members’ attention. One detailed membership dues for 2012-2013 and one displayed current board membership.

Then, Audrey K., Paige, Diana, and Dee reported out on the orientation conference call for new board members which occurred October 25 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. A brief overview of the Partnership was provided for new members, followed by a question and answer session. As the call seemed well-received by the new board members, the strategy may be a good one to continue.

In regard to the Partnership’s Lost in Transition initiative, Audrey K. explained that the University of Wyoming’s Modern and Classical Languages Department will be hosting a World Languages Day on February 2, 2013. Teachers and students from all Wyoming districts are encouraged to attend. The Partnership will be a co-sponsor for this event as part of the Lost in Transition initiative. Other Lost in Transition events were listed on the calendar of upcoming events.

Also, for Spring, 2013, Audrey K. will be teaching a class for dual/concurrent enrollment faculty.

Paige and other board members thanked Audrey K. and Beth for their work on the NNER conference. Then, Paige raised the question of whether or not Wyoming wanted to apply to be the new host site of the NNER. Several board members expressed concern about whether Wyoming would gain any advantage from hosting the NNER. Audrey K. recommended waiting until the application process was posted and then having a meeting with the executive committee to decide if the Partnership wanted to apply.

Last, Paige asked for suggestions about issues people would like to see the Partnership discuss or explore in the future. Diana Clapp recommended discussions around the issue of remedial classes. Ray Schulte asked the Partnership to consider adding a meeting for school counselors to the Lost in Transition initiative. Paige and Kathy Hitt suggested looking into meetings already held by Ed Trust that might be able to meet that need. Ray also wondered about research that UW’s Synergy Program might have about students who enroll conditionally and that such information would be valuable for governing board members to hear and discuss.

Paige requested that everyone complete an evaluation form (transcribed comments appear below) and adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Beth Wiley, November 12, 2012.

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting Evaluation Form**

**November 8, 2012**

Session Feedback transcribed November 9, 2012

n = 9 responses

*All responses from evaluation forms were transcribed exactly as written.*

Not all respondents answered all questions

1. **What insights or reactions did you have from the discussion about Bill Ivey’s interview? Was this discussion useful? Why or why not?**

* Very thoughtful comments made by members – as well as anecdotal stories which served to illustrate concerns
* Very useful – we don’t have enough time in our busy daily lives to have these kinds of conversations – would love to talk to school board and community members about this.
* First reaction – this is a provocative article for WY! It should be used w/boards & groups –
* Was useful – generated interesting conversation. We need that (a change in topic) from time to time.
* Liked the introductions about the election and education better than this section
* Useful – sometimes we push so hard academically we forget about other valuable areas to promote in school
* It was useful – it was of interest to hear how folks view values in public education. I look forward to the book study and see how reading in depth may add understanding to Ivey’s views of “value space.”
* Thought provoking Ideas from the Book/ Video. I think the idea of educating the whole student is alike at a local level but lost the more distant you get. It was good discussion
* The discussion raised my interest in looking further into Mr. Ivey’s book – *Handmaking America.* In this discussion, I found pieces I agree and disagree with.

1. **What insights or reactions did you have from the discussion about the NNER conference? Was this discussion useful? Why or why not?**

* Different highlights emerged from participants – yes it was useful
* A great conference needs great planning, and this takes a lot of work! Thanks Audrey, Beth, & Co.
* It led to a good discussion of WY issues a good jumping off place
* Thanks for the info
* Review for me; hope it was helpful for those newer to NNER
* Sounds like it was very valuable
* Good to hear others discuss committee work @ NNER. I enjoyed Diana’s accounting of new teacher attendance. Scott Marion discussion was interesting – evoked the conversation about the role out of common core.
* The idea of post-secondary having the same issues with – s[t]ate & federal oversight as k-12 was interesting. The conversations about the meeting were enlightening & interesting
* Interested in the future of the NNER, both the director position and host-site. Thank you Audrey and Beth on all the work to host a high quality NNER conference.

1. **The Partnership is looking forward to possibly expanding our Lost in Transitions initiative to include short online sessions. We are also thinking about ways to possibly expand the community engagement initiative. What kinds of projects, initiatives, and other issues would you like to see the Partnership address in the future?**

* I think a follow up conversation after Audrey’s new class is taught would be helpful.
* Linking civic ed & common core – teaching evaluation that attends to democratic teaching, building democratic learning communities. . .
* See our last discussion –
* Lost in Tran activities continue to be important. Attempts to promote L in Tare encouraged. \*Contact with P-16 – discuss possibilities.
* Need to continue as a forum for common issues even when they are not directly related to Agenda for Education in a Democracy
* See below –
* The things we are doing would be great to get some feedback on and see what the participants think.
* Lost in Transition – priority & expand to online sessions to supplement the face to face annual mtgs. I support expanding the community engagement initiatives. Post-secondary preparation~ issue of remedial courses.

1. **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)**

* Always well organized – content serves as professional & personal renewal
* board member engagement this could be a good session – panel of board members from around the state
* Meeting went well
* Works for me.
* No suggestions
* Always enjoyable for me!
* N/A
* Great organization
* Meetings are always well done. I would like paperless packets ~ a “go green” initiative

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

* Very engaging
* Thanks for all your work!
* Like the grounding activity.
* Always stimulating!
* Lunch was great! We do need to follow up by letting the LSO know about expectations Common Core assessments.
* N/A
* Follow up w/Ed Trust for HS Counselor training