**Meeting Minutes**

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 10, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

UW Outreach Building

951 N. Poplar Avenue, Casper, Wyoming 82601

Those in attendance included the following board members, guests, and staff.

***Governing board members:***

*Boyd Brown( Campbell 1), Diana Clapp (Fremont 6), Paige Fenton Hughes (Partnership Chair), Dee Ludwig (Eastern Wyoming College), Mathew Neal (Sweetwater 1), David Nicholas (Washakie 1), Kay Persichitte (UW, College of Education, dean), Leslie Rush (UW, College of Education, associate dean), Audrey Shalinsky (UW, College of Arts & Sciences, associate dean), Kathy Vetter (Wyoming Education Association, president),and John Weigel (Converse 1).*

***Guest:***

*Joe McCann (Wyoming Community College Commission)*

***Staff:***

*Audrey Kleinsasser and Beth Wiley*

Paige Fenton Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed those in attendance and asked everyone to introduce themselves by giving their name and explaining a little about what they do.

After introductions, Paige asked Audrey Kleinsasser to present the meeting agenda and supporting materials which included the financial report, the April 4 meeting minutes, and the director’s report. Audrey K. briefly explained each item. Boyd Brown moved to approve the agenda and related consent agenda items. Kathy Vetter seconded the motion.

Further discussion included a question from Boyd about whether any nonmember school districts had expressed interest in joining the Partnership. Several present at the meeting agreed to talk to non-member superintendents to encourage them to join.

There was no further discussion beyond that. The motion was approved.

Paige opened the grounding discussion by explaining that each Partnership governing board meeting has a grounding activity that takes members back to the reason and purpose of the Partnership. Grounding activities can include readings, questions to consider, and even guest presenters.

Paige explained for new members that Partnership work is based on principles of public schooling in a democracy, preparation for students in a democracy, and support of citizenship, as well as simultaneous renewal. Governing board meetings are not all business. Diana Clapp added that board members work to build a community of individuals coming together for democratic purposes.

Audrey Shalinsky then began the discussion about Roger Soder’s chapter, *Education for Democracy: The Foundation for Democratic Character*. Board members discussed the idea that a social democracy leads to the stability and respectful dialogue necessary for a political democracy. Audrey S. asked board members to identify some of the characteristics of a social and political democracy. Boyd Brown suggested that a thoughtful and discerning public was one. Dee Ludwig liked the idea of having the ability to sit in ambiguity and patience without feeling a necessity to immediate action. Several members thought Soder’s ideas about succession in leadership were important. Diana and Paige both proposed that students and the public need to learn how to have healthy disagreements and discussion. Diana emphasized that educators and administrators should realize that parents who disagree are not enemies, and compromise is important in a democracy. Kathy Vetter emphasized that teachers and students both need to feel safe to voice their opinions. Board members expressed affirmation that public schools were places where these characteristics could be taught and modeled, but it would not necessarily be an easy or quick fix.

The discussion ended with an example from John Weigel. In Converse County School District #1 this past year, some student athletes were using drugs. The first suggestion to deal with the problem was to institute a random drug testing policy. Discussion about this issue continued for the rest of the year. Eventually, Converse 1 decided against such a policy, but will instead provide extra help to students who are found using drugs. Paige suggested that Converse 1 was able to have a civil discourse about the issue because trust and respect exists among the administration, the school board, and the parents. Diana reminded everyone that the ideals of democracy are not innate. The principles of democracy will not be transferred to our children unless leaders model and demonstrate to them.

Paige explained the next item on the agenda was to set the Partnership governing board meeting calendar for 2013-2014. Dee Ludwig moved to approve the calendar as presented. David Nicholas seconded the motion.

Further discussion included a question from Diana about setting the third Wednesday in July as a meeting date. Many school districts have their budget finalized that day. A few other superintendents suggested moving that date to earlier or later in July.

Dee Ludwig amended her motion to approve the calendar with the amendment of changing the July 16 meeting to July 9. David Nicholas seconded the amended motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved.

The 2013-2014 meeting calendar is as follows:

1. Thursday, November 7, 2013 – 10am – 2pm, Casper
2. Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – meeting using distance technology, TBD during the regular 10am-2pm time block
3. Thursday, April 10, 2014 – 10am – 2pm, Casper
4. Wednesday, July 9, 2014 – 10am – 2pm, Casper

There was a short break for lunch.

Paige reconvened the meeting to open nominations and the election of a new Chair-Elect to the Partnership executive committee. Audrey K. explained that Paige will become the Past Chair, Diana will become the Chair, and the executive committee recommended nominating Boyd Brown as the new Chair-Elect for a term from 2013-2015. At that time, Boyd Brown will move into the position of Chair.

Audrey S. nominated Boyd Brown to become the Chair-Elect. Leslie Rush seconded the nomination. Paige asked for other nominations. There were none.

Dee Ludwig moved that nominations cease and the board approve Boyd Brown as Chair-Elect. Diana Clapp seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved.

Audrey K. (Partnership director) reconfirmed Partnership representatives to the NNER councils. Dave Barker will continue as the Wyoming Partnership representative on the NNER Governing Council. On the NNER Tripartite Council, Diana Clapp will serve as the Partnership representative for K-12, Audrey Shalinsky will serve as the Partnership representative for Arts & Sciences, and Allen Trent will serve as the Partnership representative for teacher education.

Audrey K. recognized and thanked Paige for her time as Partnership Chair. All in attendance concurred heartily. Paige expressed her appreciation for the opportunity.

Audrey K. then presented Partnership updates and reports included in the governing board packet. Lost in Transition meetings for all five of the Hathaway curriculum disciplines were held. The meetings for social sciences and world languages were both cancelled due to weather, but both were rescheduled (world languages in person; social sciences via the Wyoming Equality Network). A Lost in Transition meeting centered on literature and the humanities is scheduled for this fall, October 17-18, in Casper.

The Partnership supported four Wyoming representatives to the upcoming NNER Summer Symposium, July 22-25, in Seattle. Wyoming representatives include Aurora Chang, College of Education, UW; Kathy Vetter, WEA; Leslie Rush, College of Education, UW; and, Kevin Derby, Goshen County School District 1. The Partnership paid the $650 registration fee for each, and home institutions are supporting travel and lodging fees.

Other reports included updates from the P-20 data committee, the Wyoming Education Coordination Council, and the Wyoming National Board Certification Initiative. Audrey K. also explained the director’s performance objectives and goals. The executive committee evaluated and approved the director’s performance during a phone conference, June 27. The executive committee also evaluated and approved objectives and goals for 2013-2014. Paige expressed appreciation for Audrey K.’s work and dedication to making sure these goals are met.

Audrey K. also asked everyone to note dates for upcoming events included in the board packet.

Paige requested that members complete a meeting evaluation form (transcribed comments appear below) and adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Beth Wiley, July 11, 2013.

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting Evaluation Form**

**July 10, 2013**
*Session feedback transcribed July 11, 2013 n = 10 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 Roger Soder’s *Education for Democracy*? In what way did the discussion challenge your thinking or validate your core beliefs?**
* I enjoyed the reading and it validated my core beliefs. Our discussion was very good and everyone was engaged.
* Excellent leading & discussion – Concept of how to continue these types of conversation at the local level & with our stakeholders.
* I think people forget the importance of sustaining democracy in schools, classrooms and communities.
* I thought this discussion was great! Probably about 20% too long for my personal choice . . .
* It was refreshing to have a conversation(s) about big picture topics. It doesn’t get bigger than democracy!
* Stay in the boat! – I’d like to see the WSUP put on some pd for school leaders on democracy in schooling.
* Great discussion – reminds me to be grounded in what “we” want for students and that the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.
* This discussion helped bring back a recognition that to do the “good & right” work of education for a democracy (civil society) is sometimes messy, complex, & I am going to use this information to share w/ my board that a tolerance for ambiguity is needed.
* Really wondered when I was reading this about school-related examples but the group provided excellent ones. Very impressed.
* I was hoping to hear a little more validation of question 2 . . . that public educational institutions are the places to forward and agenda for democracy. Interesting . . . In fact, I thought it was really a rich conversation in general.
1. **The governing board packet includes a variety of materials about Partnership work and related efforts. What do you find useful or interesting about these materials?**
* The readings were great. I found the Lost in Transition reports great information.
* The Lost in Transition series – good to see all the sharing of ideas statewide.
* Additional resources from Soder’s article.
* Great future planning, thanks!
* I will share with staff. The PD opportunities are appreciated.
* Lost in Transition materials
* Great article by the new UW President. Discussion article was great as well.
* I appreciated the Sternberg article & the article on Common Core.
* Like to read comments on transitions meeting. Gives a sense for future directions.
* The additional info that can be shared are thought provoking.
1. **This year, the annual dues letters and invoices were copied to office associates and/or business managers. Was including office associates and/or business managers on the mailing easier and/or useful? Do you have any other suggestions for the dues process or what to include in dues packets?**
* I think this was very useful as it is the business managers who deal with the dues.
* I wasn’t aware of this – sending it to me (my attention) is best – would want to risk having it fall through the cracks – or get “double paid.” ☺
* ?
* None
* Well done
* N/A – will contact some districts who will possibly join.
* Yes – good idea.
* No comments – am still checking on this.
* Not sure . . . will rely on district folks to address.
1. **Will you duplicate and share any material from your governing board packet with your school board and/or faculty?**
* Yes, I will be sharing the “Education for Democracy” by Roger Soder.
* Yes – usually turn them into pdf articles and send them to targeted groups – perhaps I’ll share link to the website if all of these documents are available there also.
* I might see if it fits into our next admin meeting.
* All faculty on Senior levels will receive event timing and registrations.
* Yes – Soder article – excellent.
* Possibly the Soder chapter.
* Yes – President’s article & the grounding article. – Lost in Transition – to get more to the meetings.
* Yes – I am sharing the Sternberg article w/ my board.
* Yes.
* Maybe w/ the state board. ☺
1. **Reactions, suggestions, recommendations, or anything else you’d like meeting planners to know?**
* Always enjoyable!
* Great meeting!
* Thank you.
* Lovely discussion.
* N/A
* Great mtg – Thanks!
* Great meeting . . . as usual . . . thanks so much Audrey & Beth . . . for all you do for the group!