

**The Western New York Teacher Center
Policy Board Minutes – February 5, 2015**

Lancaster CSD – J. Norman Hayes Administrative Building Board Room

Present: Peter Bellanti, Dana Besch, Sarah Cabarga, Elizabeth Dunne, Lynn Fisher, Susan Frey, Lisa Graves, Greg Heer, Barb Mocariski, Kristin Overholt, Judi Roberson

Absent: John Arcese, Joseph Borgisi, Deb Cary, Paul Cary, Jen Cordon, Sue Ellis, David Hall, Cheryl Keller, Nancy Lalley, Nicole Roberson, Meri Tomasulo-Pello

Dana Besch called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. but because of lack of quorum, voting will not take place.

Minutes: Approval of 9/25/14 and 12/8/14 meeting minutes were tabled until next policy board meeting along with minutes from today, 2/5/15.

Budget Report: Peter Bellanti – Balance of today's date, 2/5/15 in the 862 account - \$2,998.64 and in the 952 account - \$85,951.03. In the 862 account, the salary balance should be \$0. The balances are being corrected, including worker's compensation, due to an incorrect percentage entered. There is roughly \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00 left to be spent by the end of the school year. Summer workshops were proposed along with collaboration with other Teacher Centers to increase participation, maybe a workshop on Google docs? This will be discussed more in the March meeting, possibly using someone local. Budget numbers for CIP/PD were discussed.

Director's Report:

- Far West and State News. There will be a new website that should be up and running shortly and more information will be coming. The hope is to share classes between networks and teacher centers so they can be open to each other to increase the value of our network.
- We are putting together a newsletter, more of a political advocacy piece for our network. The Technology and Public Relations committee consists of 100 people and meetings are set up with the new state legislators. Discussion about backing legislators that support teachers centers.
- Discussion about the budget for next year. It was suggested that the budget is going to be done early this year, possibly before Easter break but after discussion realized that may not happen due to testing dates and earlier conflicts with government decisions.
- State Directors Meeting – March 4th and March 5th in Albany.
- Big focus on data collection. Discussion ensued about what kind of data they are collecting and the issues at state level up and down.
- There are issues with Teacher Center leadership. The new SED representative is looking into issues with our committees. There are 117 Teacher Center directors and almost 60 have 5 or less years of experience. Would like state meetings to focus on networking.

Old Business:

- Update on the 2014-2015 winter and spring courses. Classes offered during the first few weeks of January and September were hard to run. Possibility of changing that next year? It was proposed to start classes in the New Year after Martin Luther King Day. Out of 57 courses scheduled, 25 actually ran. 500 level classes were cancelled repeatedly, with 5 running and 16 being cancelled. The regular courses are on par with over 50% running. The courses for art did struggle and none of them ended up running. Discussion on how to get more teachers to come to courses.
- In depth discussion on My Learning Plan and the possibility of induction and the approach that would be needed and the necessity of a SIF Agent.

New Business:

- Should we run 500 level courses for next year? How much awareness is out there? Discussion again on adopting My Learning Plan to help link all parts of teachers work between school and the center. Discussion on BOCES adopting a new system and the cost that would be incurred.
- What courses would you like to offer next year? Discussion on different areas and topics including technology based courses. It was decided to change the way courses were chosen last year and make a list of what courses we would like to offer. Then BOCES can find out what courses are able to be run. Ten course topics from each district are to be chosen to promote interest on the teachers end.
- Reschedule of the March 24th afternoon meeting at Depew. Discussion on moving to March 25th in the afternoon. Sue Frey to confirm room availability and notify Peter. Peter will send out an e-mail to confirm the meeting change.
- Discussion on flyer of partnerships we currently have within the NYS Teacher Centers. Certain partnerships are free and others are at a discounted rate. BOCES must have the cheapest pricing if a contract already exists.
- Discussion on 2015-2016 policy board member changes. The schools can individually decide on who they would like on the board. A new business representative is needed along with a new parent representative for next year and a new non-public representative. It was encouraged to make these changes now instead of waiting.
- Clarification on how we are choosing our courses for next year. Ending on the note that we are going to create a list of our wants for next year.

Questions?

Lynn Fisher motioned to adjourn at 10:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Judi Roberson. Motion carried.