

**The Western New York Teacher Center  
Policy Board Minutes – December 8, 2014**

**Clarence CSD – District Central Office/Conference Room C of Special Ed Offices**

**Present:** John Arcese, Peter Bellanti, Paul Cary, Jen Cordon, Elizabeth Dunne, Lynn Fisher, Lisa Graves, Greg Heer, Cheryl Keller, Nancy Lalley, Kristin Overholt, Peggy Westerling

**Absent:** Dana Besch, Joseph Borgisi, Deb Cary, Sue Ellis, Susan Frey, David Hall, Barb Mocariski, Judi Roberson, Nicole Roberson, Meri Tomasulo-Pello

Nancy Lalley called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. but because of lack of a quorum, voting will not take place. Peter Bellanti will send via email proposals that need approval.

**Minutes:** Lynn Fisher asked for page 2, fourth paragraph, BOCES spacing to be corrected. Approval of 9/25/14 meeting minutes was tabled until next policy board meeting.

**Budget Report:** Teacher Center Grant budget has two negatives that are due to miscalculations (wrong percentages used); Peter can transfer funds to correct (no state grant amendment required). Excess in workers comp line will be disbursed. Excess \$3452.63 needs to be spent, will be used for supplies, mileage, conference, etc.

CIP Budget has \$90,878.41 carried over from last year. Revenues were \$9,690.25 and expenses \$6,601.34. The encumbrances of \$9341.91 will be decreasing because of course cancellations. \$84,625.41 is the available funds in this grant.

**Director's Report:**

Far West Directors' Meeting - November 13

- Funding of \$500 was approved at the meeting for National Board Certification
- Because Far West Center cannot charge for their courses, and the funding has run out, each teacher center was asked to host (can be held at any member district) and fund one class. Far West would do the registration and set up. Cost is \$225/3 hour course and \$450/6 hour course. Motion to authorize \$450 expenditure for 6 hour course was tabled.
- Tech Training – Paul Szymendera - Peter wants our teacher center to cover the costs of a couple of his courses, very engaging. Effectech website run by Paul and Nancy Cook from Williamsville Tests 10 -15 apps per week before posting on site the best educational tools
  - Would like to have them do some classes for our TC as well depending on their availability.
- Elaine Altman shared her political opinions and projections regarding education funding in NYS. Peter added that the governors usually eliminate teacher center funding but state legislators and assemblyman usually add back into the budgets. Peter Bellanti stated that teacher centers should be aligning themselves with legislators who support teacher centers – using political reaction committee to encourage teachers to reach out to their legislators.
- UB is using Buffalo Teacher Center to offer same East Asia for Teachers course that we offered last year. Teachers can take course again if they wish. There is no charge.
- Jan 15 is the next Far West meeting

#### State Directors Meeting – Oct 24

- Dawn Graham is the new Gail Moon at SED. Dawn will be re-evaluating and auditing office procedures during this current year to see if any changes need to be made in 2015-16. There is a possibility she will require a brand new RFP for 2016-17. Teacher Centers have been submitting continuing applications for quite a few years.
- Data collection breakout sessions – wish for more narrative to explain useful data
- NYS Teacher Centers, NY Institute of Technology and NYSUT has partnerships for software – Symbaloo - parking lot for website for teacher pages. It is free with teacher center partnership and individual school techs can check to see if it can be imbedded.

#### Old Business:

In September, it was discussed that the 600 & 700 courses were specific for BOCES teachers. From discussions since we have permission to offer these courses to Clarence, Lancaster & Depew. Perhaps at a lower cost. Only 11 hours are free for BOCES teachers and they do pay the \$7/credit hour fee after that, so we will keep the \$7/credit hour fee for all.

Summer/Fall Course Update – All courses on list have run (or been cancelled) except for last two. Some of the cancelled classes are rescheduled. Kristen Overholt would like to be copied (e-mailed) along with her secretary on class cancellations that have Clarence registrations. Discussion ensued on problems with having to register in EMR along with PDP. It is necessary but creates inaccuracy/confusion. Peter B. may be able to set up a link in My Learning Plan to make it more efficient. Paul Cary asked if teacher center could share the two registration lists (EMR & PDP) five days before class to confirm everyone is registered in both places and perhaps eliminate some cancellations due to low enrollment.

The Summer and Fall courses followed our normal participation percentages. There is a large range of course hours 3 – 15 hours. There is more diversity with online courses. There were 108 offered, 46 ran with 355 attended.

New Course Offerings: January – May Course Schedule was shared - first three pages (front & back) are the new courses. New instructors are Emery Pifer from East Aurora and Rachel Wysocki from Hamburg. Nassau Teacher Center would like to offer five online courses. Peter said the only questionable course is Wysocki's 12 hour workshop on Standards Based Planning: ELA Common Core – would suggest breaking into 3 or 4 hours segments. He is waiting to see what she would like to do. Policy Board would like to streamline offerings (some are duplicated in district for credit), would administrators approve these courses? Most have been approved at other teacher centers. Peter will take to four districts to see what they would approve. Asked if online courses could be separated from classroom courses – can categorize courses like a college catalog (?) Board would like hyperlinks on course online table – Peter said list-view is the easiest way to use the catalog. It is hoped we can simplify process to discourage cancellations.

Reminder: the votes for Far West spending authorization and course approval will be solicited by Peter Bellanti via online voting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.