

**The Western New York Teacher Center  
Policy Board Minutes – February 3, 2016**

**Lancaster – Central Avenue Elementary School, Conference Room**

**Present:** John Arcese, Peter Bellanti, Dana Besch, Sarah Cabarga, Paul Cary, Elizabeth Dunne, Lynn Fisher, Elizabeth Freas, Susan Frey, Leeann Haj, Greg Heer, Nancy Lalley, Melissa Metz, Kristin Overholt, Annette Szeffler, Meri Tomasulo-Pello

**Absent:** Jen Cordon, Cheryl Keller, Barb Mocarski, Judi Roberson, Nicole Roberson

Leeann Haj called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Approval of December 8, 2015 minutes. One correction made. Motion to approve minutes with correction by Leeann Haj, seconded by Greg Heer, motion carried.

**Budget Report:** Missed this report.

**Director's Report:**

- Far West News.
  - Peter will resend “Echoes and Reflections and Elie Wiesel’s *Night* Upcoming Program” flyer. There may be some changes and a possible combination of programs.
  - Spring Workshops. The online workshop titled “Growing the P-16 Teaching Profession” filled quickly. West Seneca Teacher’s Center will be holding two more classes titled “Legal Issues with Implications for the Teaching Profession” and “Teacher Professionalism and Advocacy/Effective Teaching Beyond the Classroom” in March. Sweet Home Teacher’s Center is holding three workshops titled “Getting Started in a Digital Classroom”, “Promoting Digital Literacy”, and “Developing Creativity with Technology Tools” in March. Peter is waiting for registration information and once this information is received, Peter will send it out.
- State News.
  - March 8, 2016 and March 9, 2016 will be the Spring Symposium. The agenda begins with afternoon Pre-Conferences on Tuesday and end with lunch on Wednesday. The full agenda was given out to all who attended this meeting. While the agenda is set, there is still work being done on the workshop sessions. Possible topics include online Moodle, an online Zoom partnership, data collection, a poverty seminar, grant writing, social media, and atlas training. More information will become available.
  - The 2016-2017 application should be out on April 1, 2016, depending on the state budget. The tentative due date is June 8, 2016. The evaluation piece will also be due at this time. An abstract example was given to everyone to give an idea of what is expected. Each district is to choose one program and write a one-page piece on that program. The second page of the abstract example is a question and answer page on the abstract to help create correctly. There will be a meeting at the Spring Symposium on abstracts in March. Peter may change the teacher center RFP. Peter will update and go from there. Discussion on the State Education Department’s 3-6 month evaluation implementation.

### Old Business

- Peter gave an update on the 2015-2016 Winter and Spring courses. The numbers look good for February, there was only one class with no registrants. All other workshops scheduled for February should run. January was an ok month, with 2 out of 3 online workshops running. One Science class was cancelled although it was the first course of the year. It has been found that combining grade levels helps to make classes run more often than cancelling.
- Corrections were made to the google doc surveys. They should be set up correctly now to see how it works.

### New Business

- The documents were sent to everyone in the shared WNY folder. If you did not receive these documents, let Peter know. The meeting minutes are public, but everything else for the center is on google docs and the calendar including the committee and the bylaws.
- The district's lists of 500 Level ETEAM courses were sent to Julianna. They are working on filling these needs. In Clarence, all courses did not run. Depew suggested running courses in the summer to help run. This suggestion would work for the ETEAM as Julianna's coordinators will be working in summer. Lancaster has three courses remaining. The hope is the Far West pamphlet will serve to get "the word" out. The teacher center will be coming up with flyers for legislators and assembly offices for bulletin boards, etc. The teacher center will also be working on fixing the formatting and color on the flyers to make them more appealing.

Dana Besch made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 am, seconded by Leeann Haj, motion carried.