



**Edith Winthrop Teacher Center of Westchester
December 11, 2013**

Policy Board Minutes

Present:

Alex Carballo, Susan Farrell, Anita Ferreri, Charles Fritz, Theresa Gallucci, Nina Geller, Jean O'Brien, Shqype Rraci, Barbara C. Scaros, Ruth Steinberg, Rocco Varuolo, Lisa Watson, Shelley Wepner

Charles Fritz called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

• Minutes

Barbara Scaros distributed the minutes to the Policy Board members from the November 13 meeting. The minutes were reviewed and Nina Geller made a motion to accept and Jean O'Brien second that motion. Motion carried.

• Constitution By-Laws

The Constitution By-Laws were amended to incorporate changes in the Teacher Center and a motion to approve was made by Charles Fritz, Nina Geller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

As of today, there is no information on dates for the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. As soon as they become available, we will e-mail the information. Barbara reiterated that there is less money this year and that the Policy Board Reps will have first priority.

• Professional Development Program

Each year the Teacher Center offers a Professional Development Grant Program that is funded through union funds to help teachers implement innovative programs into their classroom. Barbara Scaros asked the board whether professional development grants were still an initiative teachers were interested in or if participations in Webinars and attendance at Conferences were a more appropriate way to use these monies. These webinars should focus on RtT Initiatives including, APPR, SLO's, Math and Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) The board representatives discussed the viability of the program and suggested that this year's Program should be limited to Webinars and some Conferences. Susan Farrell indicated that the Policy Board would need to establish a budget allocation for each district. Barbara asked a committee of Policy Board members to research suitable Webinars and Conferences that the Teacher Center could advertise in their monthly Newsletter and their website. While there were a couple of Policy Board members who felt that grants were still a relevant option, the board agreed to pilot the alternate program and assess teacher interest once the research is complete. Barbara will

include information on appropriate Webinars and Conferences in the January Teacher Center Newsletter and gauge teacher response.

Barbara spoke again about the Celia Keenholtz “Excellence in Technology Award” of \$250 which is being given in her memory. The board agreed that the Teacher Center would match that amount so a teacher from one of the consortium districts would receive the award for \$500. Jean O’Brien and Lisa Watson will be the committee members who will help to formulate the application process.

• **Learner Centered Initiatives**

The Lower Hudson Teacher Center Network and Learner-Centered Initiatives, founded by Dr. Giselle Martin-Kniep, is offering teachers an opportunity to work with their colleagues to design evidence binders that will empower them to better understand their students’ growth. This two-day workshop will empower teachers to take control of their own assessments and organize what they collect into a coherent story of their professional practice. LCI consultant Jane Lombardo will lead this two day experience, which will revolve around teachers’ analysis of their practice and setting and reaching goals for professional growth. This workshop is state approved and will be held at the NYSUT office in Tarrytown, NY. There is no cost to the teachers and the dates are January 22 and 29, 2013 with a snow date to be announced.

• **Teachers as Leaders**

As part of the Great Teachers and Leaders initiative, the Edith Winthrop Teacher Center is continuing its program, Teachers as Leaders, with Manhattanville College. The new cohort is scheduled to begin in January. The 15 credit certificate program is geared towards teachers in designated leadership positions, those who assume informal leadership roles, and those who would like to assume a leadership role in their school.

Our next meeting will be on February 12, 2013.

Motion to adjourn by Charles Fritz. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Gallucci.