

**Edith Winthrop Teacher Center of Westchester
Policy Board Minutes
April 12, 2011**

Barbara Scaros called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm and thanked everyone for coming.

Teacher Center Funding

A. Barbara started the meeting by telling everyone “Good News - We are Funded”. She went on to say that the advocacy efforts put forth by NYSUT, our consortium teachers, Teacher Center personnel, and our local legislators (Tom Abinanti, Mike Spano and Andrea Stewart-Cousins) were instrumental in securing Teacher Center funding in a very difficult funding year.

Barbara told the Policy Board that Teacher Centers may look a little different and that she was waiting to hear more from State Ed.

New Business

A. Susan Farrell talked about our Institute courses and indicated that there was still concern about the reduced participation in our course offerings. Online courses continue to be more successful than contact courses.

She asked the board members for any feedback they received from their colleagues about why there are fewer teachers taking Teacher Center inservice courses. The members indicated that districts are becoming more stringent about the type of courses they will approve and that teachers, themselves, have been finding other venues to take courses. They specifically mentioned TEI (Teacher Education Institute) which offers both graduate and inservice courses at a lower price and for a shorter course duration. These courses have been endorsed by the school districts and, as long as they are within the teacher’s subject area, are being approved by the Districts’ administrators.

B. Susan also mentioned to the board that several new online courses have been added to the summer brochure and asked that they share the fliers with their colleagues.

C. A copy of last year's Needs Assessment Survey was distributed to the board members. Additions and corrections were suggested and the Survey will be available to consortium teachers during the month of May for them to access and complete.

Graduate Programs

We are having an Informational Meeting for the Teacher Leader Program (Cohort 5) on May 2nd and an Informational Meeting on May 9th for the School Building Leadership Program (Cohort 4). Both programs would begin in Fall, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. Our final meeting for the school year will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 in the Board Room of the Greenburgh CSD No. 7 Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Gallucci.