



**Edith Winthrop Teacher Center of Westchester  
December 6, 2011**

**Policy Board Minutes**

**Lisa Watson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.**

**Present:**

Lori D'Andrea, Susan Farrell, Charles Fritz, Theresa Gallucci, Nina Geller, Mary Noll, Jean O'Brien, Jo-Ann Clancy Perini, Barbara C. Scaros, Kathleen Stoneburner, Lisa Watson

**New Business**

**. Evidence Binders Program**

The Edith Winthrop Teacher is offering a course entitled, *Capture and Showcase Student Growth using Evidence Binders*, which is being facilitated by Jane Lombardo, a former Teacher Center Director and Consultant from LCI (Learner-Centered Initiatives). This course will help teachers take a critical look at their work and how it is affecting student learning. It will give them an opportunity to reflect on teaching practices and it will showcase their student's growth. At this point, 24 teachers from our seven school districts (from various grades and disciplines) are signed up for this course that begins in January. Barbara was happy to report that several of our Policy Board Members will be attending this course and will turnkey this training back at the schools in their districts.

**. Teacher Center Statewide Program**

Barbara and Susan went to a 2-day NYS Teacher Center conference entitled, *December Dialogues* in Albany on December 1-2. The conference focused on the Teacher Center role in helping network teams meet the goals set forth under the RtT agenda. Commissioner King, who spoke at the Conference, thanked Teacher Centers for all their support and their collaboration with the network teams and he reiterated that Teacher Centers are doing good work on all the new mandates.

**. Common Core Learning Standards**

The Lower Hudson Teacher Center Network, one of the regional networks in the statewide program, facilitated a conversation with Teacher Center directors on how we can help districts integrate the Common Core Learning Standards into their curriculum. The Teacher Center Director, Program Coordinator and Policy Board Chairperson attended this meeting in Rockland County that was held on Tuesday, December 6. With the information they obtained from this meeting and with the information set forth on Engage NY, they plan on scheduling meetings with consortium teachers to share with them the shifts in standards and how these new common core

standards can be integrated into their current lesson plans.

**. 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.

**. Google For Educators**

Lisa Watson and Bill Zimmerman were accepted into and recently began a NYIT sponsored program to become certified Google instructors. This is a very intensive program and instructors must pass a number of different tests before they can receive certification. Once they are trained, we would like to nominate 2 more teachers to be trained in this program. Certified instructors will be called upon by the Center to share this information with consortium teachers.

**. APPR**

Policy Board members discussed the status of their APPR's and which rubric they will be using. Since some of the districts are without a contract, some have not yet selected a rubric. The districts that have selected a rubric are, for the most part, going with the Revised Charlotte Danielson version. Barbara also said that NYSUT has an approved rubric that is closely aligned with the new teaching standards. The Teacher Center continues to collaborate with the BOCES network team and continues to share the team information with consortium districts. She encouraged the members to visit Engage NY which has updated information on all the new state mandates and brought the website up on a SmartBoard to show them how to navigate through it. Policy Board member, Lori D'Andrea, also shared with the members a CCLS based tool called, "*Mentoring Minds*".

**Institute**

**. Professional Development Technology Program**

It was reported that the PDT Program was posted on our website and was in our December Newsletter. There seems to be a lot of interest from our consortium teachers and we will follow up with the members on how many teachers actually apply by the December 16 deadline. A Reading Committee was formed consisting of 5 policy board members: Charles Fritz, Greenburgh #7, JoAnne Perini and Nina Geller, Greenburgh 11, Jean O'Brien, Tarrytown and Lisa Watson, Elmsford. The Reading Committee will meet on Thursday, January 12 to share their comments on the grants they read and to come to a consensus on the winning proposals.

**. Celebration of Teaching and Learning**

The Edith Winthrop Teacher Center is once again sending teachers to the Seventh Annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning which will be held on March 16 and 17 at the Hilton in

NYC. There are a number of consortium teachers who the Teacher Center already registered for this event. The Early Registration deadline is Friday, December 16.

**Inservice Courses**

Board members were asked to think about how Teacher Center inservice courses could better meet the needs of their teachers. Course registration has been down for the last 3-4 years and the Teacher Center wants to offer courses or programs that appeal to teachers and meet their ongoing needs.

Our next meeting will be on February 7, 2012 at which time the PDT recipients will be honored.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Gallucci.