



**Edith Winthrop Teacher Center of Westchester
October 11, 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, Amanda Roman, Barbara C. Scaros, Kathleen Stoneburner, Lisa Watson, Shelley Wepner, Michelle Yang

New Business

I. Introductions -

All members were introduced and new members were welcomed.

II. Teacher Center Grant -

Barbara reported that official notification of the NYS 2011-12 Teacher Center Grant was received after the last Policy Board meeting in June. A copy of the grant was distributed and the budget explained to the Policy Board members. The board members engaged in a discussion of the Teacher Center programs that would support the Race to the Top Initiatives (teacher evaluations, core curriculum standards, data analysis and great teachers-great leaders) and how and when they would be implemented. The Board voted to accept the Teacher Center Grant and Budget unanimously

The Teacher Center staff is working on a consortium wide program (to be supported with state monies) to help teachers take a critical look at their work and how it is impacting their students. It will be an opportunity to reflect on teaching practices and to design an "Evidence Binder" that would showcase their students' growth. The board offered their suggestions on what the course should look like (based on teacher needs) and agreed that schools and/or districts should send a team of teachers who could then turnkey this information to district colleagues.

III. APPR -

Policy Board members discussed where they were with contract negotiations and district APPR's and rubrics. Several districts are in the process of negotiating new contracts and most have agreed to use the Charlotte Danielson rubric. One of the board members asked colleagues for support with her district curriculum mapping and a discussion ensued about the various models being used. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Teacher Center Director offered to have someone go to the district to help with their curriculum maps.

Institute Policy Board

IV. Professional Development Program

Each year the Teacher Center offers a Professional Development Program that is funded by union funds to help teachers implement innovative programs into their classroom. Last year, because of restricted funds, awards were limited to \$550 (down from \$750). As a result only 9 grants were submitted – the year before 23 had been submitted. Barbara Scaros asked the board whether professional development grants were still an initiative teachers were interested in or whether PTA and Education Foundation grants, which offered more seed money, had become more attractive alternatives. The board representatives discussed the viability of the program and suggested that this year's Program be limited to technology grants and that winners would earn an iPad for their school instead of receiving a monetary award. A cohort of Policy Board members volunteered to review and update the current program application form and revise as appropriate. The board agreed to defer the grant offering by one month (from November to December) so that the application process could be updated and information could be disseminated to consortium teachers.

V. 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.

VI. College Programs

We continue to collaborate with Manhattanville College and this September began a new cohort for the School Building Leadership Program.

Our next meeting will be on December 6, 2011 .

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Gallucci.