

TEACHER CENTER of Broome County

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2009

PRESENT: Sara-Jo Sites, Susan Halpern, Diana Simpson, Diane Richards, Evie King, Diane Sheehan, Bob Carpenter, Erin Hitchcock, Mike Sabo, Sheri Abdullah, Debbie Sluzar, Sharon Wells, Lisa Strahley, Mary Hibbard, Dawn Shannon and Gail Szeliga.

EXCUSED: Heather Badger Brown, Starr LaTronica, Andrea Gresko

ABSENT: Colleen Cawley

Diana Simpson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Sheri Abdullah was congratulated on becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. There are less than 10 National Board Certified Teachers in Broome and Tioga County. Sheri is the only NBCT in our consortium.

Minutes of November 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (includes financial report and other information items)

The financial reports were presented and Gail gave an update to ARRA funding. The Teacher Center grant will be cut by app. 10% . More details will be forthcoming.

Sheri Abdullah has agreed to be our National Board "Candidate Support Provider", assisting other teachers with their requirements as they strive to attain National Board Certification.

An update was given regarding the compilation of the "Peer Visitation" database. This is a database of "master" teachers who would welcome other teachers to their classroom to observe a specific strategy or procedure/routine. Policy Board members were asked to nominate teachers. Letters will be sent to nominees asking permission before adding their name to the database.

A report was given regarding our Visual Thinking Strategies program. 15 teacher participants are receiving professional development and classroom coaching sessions. The final project is a trip to the Roberson museum with their class to conduct a Visual Thinking Strategies in an actual museum.

Gail Szeliga reported on the NYSTC Fall Focus from November 13-15 in Albany. This event replaces the NYSTC Summer Institute and NYSTC Annual Meeting.

A new flyer was distributed that was entitled – Professional Development Opportunities. The Professional Development Reading Incentive will be added to the flyer. This flyer will be sent to teachers after the Teacher Center budget is finalized.

Policy Board members were asked to have their union leader sign and return two requests for new member workshops that can be offered at no charge by the ELT division of NYSUT. The Teacher Center will make all the arrangements and the requested workshops can be held on site in the district or at the TC. District employees will be registered first if their union leader signs and returns the form. A list of new member workshops was included.

Jim Wright, author of the RTI Toolkit, has been contacted and is available to present an all day workshop to

Broome county educators on March 11. His fee is \$2000.

From July 1, 2009 – Dec. 10, 2009 – 65 workshops /734 participants.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Carpenter made a motion not to purchase the videoconferencing kit to loan to schools for app. \$600 -\$700 at this time. Motion seconded by Sharon Wells. Motion carried.

Co-chairs Diana Simpson and Susan Halpern reported on their experiences NYSTC Fall Focus from November 13-15 in Albany, Ny.

The new CURRICULUM INTEGRATION REVOLVING Mini-PROJECT (formerly Technology Integration Grant) has to be revised and renamed to relate to Action Research under the new ARRA guidelines from State ed. New

Name: ACTION RESEARCH Mini-Project

The ACTION RESEARCH Mini-Project is designed to provide funding up to \$500 for the implementation of a curriculum related ACTION RESEARCH project any time between December 1 and May 4, 2010. The purpose of the Mini-Project is to provide the professional with the opportunity to develop and test innovative integrated projects suitable for the classroom. These projects must be referenced to the NYS Learning Standards, have classroom application and adhere to district procedures/policies. Applications are due at the Teacher Center by the first Tuesday of each month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Peer Visitation Committee – Andrea, Sharon and Diane Richards – Approved one teacher visitation.

NEW BUSINESS

Erin Hitchcock moved to increase free laminating allotment for teachers to 50 feet /3 months. Community members would be allowed 25 feet/3 months. Diane Richards seconded. Motion carried.

LEA Update: Dawn Shannon updated the policy board on LEA policy and procedures related to funds. Mary Hibbard moved that the Snow Day policy was revised to read:

CLOSING POLICY FOR "SNOW DAYS AND NO HEAT" DAYS (adopted on August 15, 2007 and revised Dec. 10, 2009)

The Teacher Center of Broome County will follow the directives of Broome Tioga BOCES in regard to closing due to snow emergencies. If the entire BOCES campus is closed, the Teacher Center will be closed. Employees will follow the procedures outlined in their current contract. BTA members do not report if the BOCES superintendent closes BOCES for students, BSSA members must report to work.

If after school activities are cancelled for the Vestal Central Schools all meetings and workshops scheduled at the Teacher Center will be cancelled and rescheduled for another date.

It is suggested that the Teacher Center use the proper procedures to announce its closing through the media, hence, radio, TV, and the Internet.

If WSKG Studios, 61 Gates Rd., Vestal, NY, where the Teacher Center resides, has no heat on scheduled work days during the months warranted, the Teacher Center will close. Erin Hitchcock seconded. Motion carried.

Next Business Meeting: January 12, 2010 – at the Teacher Center @ WSKG.