

**THE TEACHER CENTER of Broome County**  
**Policy Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Susan Halpern, Kate Griffith, Diana Simpson, Andrea Gresko, Diane Richards, Evie King, Diane Sheehan, Colleen Cawley, Bob Carpenter, Mike Sabo, Erin Hitchcock, Heather Badger Brown, Sheri Abdullah and Gail Szeliga.

**ABSENT:** Sharon Wells, Cheryl Naslund, Carol Eaton, Debbie Sluzar, Starr LaTronica, Jeff Van Syckle

At 4:10 pm, Susan Halpern called the meeting to order. Minutes of January 9, 2007 meeting were approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Financial report was given for the state grant and the local account. The amendment that was recently submitted to state ed. has been approved adding \$20, 000 to the total budget.

The NYS Teacher Center Spring Retreat at the Sagamore will be held March 23 – March 25, 2007. Diana Simpson, Susan Halpern, Colleen Cawley, Diane Sheehan and Mike Sabo will be representing our Teacher Center.

The second part of the Roadblocks to Learning Conference was held on Feb. 27, 2007 in Ithaca, NY. This was a follow up to the October 2006 conference. Keynote presenter was Dr. Susan McLaughlin Beltz, a Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Behavioral Neuroscientist, Certified Special Education Teacher and licensed Clinical Psychologist in New Hampshire. Over 100 teachers attended. Both conferences were co-sponsored by all 12 of the teacher centers in the Southern Tier. Both were broadcast remotely to Elmira and Oneonta where 80 more people attended.

The Broome Teacher Center sponsored the “Project Look Sharp: Media Literacy Training” on March 1, 2007 at the Broome County Public Library. Chris Sperry presented an interesting and enlightening program to 45 local teachers.

The Policy Board was asked to approve changing the Teacher Center hours to 8am -5 pm Monday – Thursday, closed Fridays. Presently official hours are M-TR - 8am – 4 pm and 8am to 12 pm on Fridays. Staying open longer during the week worked very well when Kathy was out for her surgery and Gail had meetings every Friday during the month of January.

Policy Board members were asked if they wished to participate in the Southern Tier Heart Walk. It will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at the Johnson City Elementary-Middle School. A Teacher Center team has participated during the last three years.

Director, Gail Szeliga requested a schedule change. She would like to work an 11 month schedule instead of 12 month schedule starting July 1, 2007. Her salary, sick and vacation days would be adjusted accordingly. There would be no effect on the summer program because Kathy wishes to continue working a 12 month schedule.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Financial Committee Report – Mike, Susan, Diane and Kate

A letter has been sent to Bill Powell, head of the BOCES business office requesting that interest be added to our local account. No response has been received. Mike Sabo also outlined the Policy Boards contractual obligation in regard to paid sick days and other benefits for employees who retire after 10 years of service. He also stated that money would be needed to close down the center if funding was cut off. He suggested that \$\_\_\_would be encumbered from local funds to cover these obligations.

NEA GRANT: What should we do with \$250.00? E-mail was read from the Mike Lurenz, a Maine Endwell teacher, who was honored by NEA with a \$250 donation to the Teacher Center. He stated that he would like the money to be spent to “motivate teenage readers”. Policy Board members were asked to e-mail their ideas to Gail and a discussion and decision will be made at a future meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A discussion was held regarding the hourly rate for new account clerk, Elaine Andreyko. Presently she is being paid \$10.00 per hour. Policy Board agreed that her salary should increase to \$11.50 by Dec. 2007 with a 50 cent raise every three months, beginning in May 2007.

It was decided that a dinner meeting with Union Leaders and Policy Board Representatives would be planned for the fall of 2007. Kate, Diana, Evie and Heather volunteered to be on the planning committee.

### **Technology Integration Mini-Grant – Committee Report**

Erin Hitchcock reported that the committee reviewed 12 grant applications. Two technology Integration grants were awarded, five were denied and another five were asked to clarify some of their information and resubmit their application within two weeks.

Susan Halpern offered information on the Smart Board deal and the TTP program sponsored by the NYS Teacher Center Technology committee.

The meeting date for the next meeting of the policy board was changed to April 17 due to the fact that school is not in session on April 10. A business meeting and the self study will take place at that time. It was decided that the self study will focus on deciding what message will be delivered to all consortium teachers on opening day – September 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.