

Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Saturday, February 13, 2010

Ramada Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Present: Donna Pasternak, chair. Emilie Amundson, Lynn Aprill, Linda Barrington, Barbara Dixson, Lynn Frick, Jess Gallo, Marti Matyska (acting secretary), Scott Oates, Tom Pamperin, Karen Rigoni, Tom Scott, Jen Scott Curwood, and John Zbikowski.

I. Committee Meetings; 9:00–11:00 a.m.

- a. Membership – Tom Scott
- b. WCEE – Barbara Dixson held at UW-Stevens Point 2/12/10
- c. WCEL – Tom Scott
- d. Professional Issues – Tom Pamperin
- e. Publications – Editors
- f. Convention – Lynn Aprill

II. Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting; 11:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- a. Approval of October's Board Meeting Minutes
The agenda was approved with the following correction: Three names were misspelled and they are Dixson, Schwane, and Arneson.
- b. Approval of Annual Business Meeting Minutes
It was suggested by Zbikowski to remove this item since these minutes need to be approved at the next annual meeting.
- c. DPI Liaison – Emilie Amundson
Amundson presented information about Common Core standards which should be released for public comment within the next month. Once posted (www.corestandards.org) there will be a one month period of time for feedback. At that point Wisconsin is poised to adopt Common Core Standards. Also, Wisconsin asked for \$254 million in its Race to the Top (RTT) application. In its RTTT application, the state plans to adopt the Common Core Standards and involve Wisconsin educators in developing model curriculum and units of instruction for each grade level, reflecting a learning progression for the Common Core standards. Common statewide benchmark assessment will be developed

to gauge student progress on Common Core standards throughout the school year. The Common Core standards appear to be replacing the previously developed curriculum, and DPI has disassociated itself from the 21st Century Skills initiative.

d. Treasurer's Report – Tom Scott

The convention income was \$21,045 while the expense was \$11,654.96 so that there was a profit of \$10,390.04 for the 2009 convention. The checking account balance is \$29,180.27; the saving account balance is \$1,786.76; and the CD is approximately at \$4,000.

e. Pooley Foundation Report – Marty Wood's designee is Scott Oates.

The Board of Trustees submitted a written report which presented a history of the Pooley (research), Bush (composition) and Pooley (teaching) awards. The trustees recommend increasing the awards. Oates moved, seconded by Ragoni, that the following motions be accepted en masse:

1. That the WCTE eliminate the 2nd place prize for the Lucille S. Pooley.
2. That the WCTE use the \$500 surplus annual earnings currently available to increase both the Bush and the Lucille S. Pooley awards to \$500 each.
3. That the Pooley Research Award be disbursed on the realized gains of the Foundation in a given year; the total awards given will not exceed the amount generated from the Foundation Investments each year. In prior years this award has been \$2000.

Motioned passed.

f. Committee Reports

1. District Directors – Jacki Martindale

Through an e-mail to the president Martindale requests that district directors inform her of possible activities in their districts.

2. Membership – Tom Scott

WCTE received a certificate, the Outstanding Increased Membership Award from NCTE . 413 people are included in the WCTE membership roles (192 are active; 14 are contributing; 12 are sustaining; 19 are listed as new teacher; 16 are retired; 168 are listed as student; and the rest are undesignated). Scott and Barrington will attempt to contact lapsed members.

3. WCEE – Barbara Dixon
Dixon reported on the WCEE meeting: the group will be finding about other CEE's, networking on national policy initiatives, and developing communication systems. Another meeting will be planned for July. Susanne Fondrie is now serving as secretary.
4. WCEL – Tom Scott-no report given
5. Awards – Carol Conway-Gerhardt
There was no formal report, but it was noted that NCTE deadline for the nominations of High School Teacher of the Year is due in the beginning of March. Names should be sent to JoAnne Katzmarek.
6. Professional Issues – Tom Pamperin
In order to protect the WCTE non-profit status, the committee will be looking into any restrictions on legislative lobbying. In the meantime, the committee plans to bring a voice to policy issues. There is a concern about the rush to abandon the current state standards for Common Core standards. The issue will be pursued in the *Update* through both print and video and will reach teachers holding a 300 licensure.
7. Publications
 - A. Website – John Zbikowski -The website is definitely being used and a committee is working on a re-design which will be presented in July. Zbikowski asked for input on possible changes.
 - B. *Update* – Linda Barrington-Barrington described the layout for the next *Update* which includes: the Common Core Standards initiative, Social Justice, the GLS conference on composition, a link to the *Wisconsin English Journal*, fall convention information, a call for proposals, information from the Intellectual Freedom Committee, ideas for the classroom, and important WCTE dates. Once again video clips will be embedded in the *Update*.
 - C. *WEJ* – Jen Scott Curwood & Jess Gallo-The committee now has a 2009, edited, double issue of an *English Journal* which is ready for publication. It could be published digitally or in printed form. The approximate cost for the printing is \$3000. It was decided to publish the Fall 2009 double issue digitally. A 2010 Journal will be ready in two months; it will be sent in electronic form. Curwood

and Gallo demonstrated the *EJ* website where documents are submitted and edited. The committee is collecting digital copies of old *English Journals* to be cached. Members are also scanning print copies of back issues; some issues are missing, and it was suggested to contact Emily Tymus Ihrke, the archivist, to look for them.

8. Convention – Lynn Aprill

The 2010 convention will be held in Eau Claire. A pre-convention workshop is planned for Thursday, October 21, at the Metropolis Resort with Kylene Beers and Bob Probst presenting. Their speaker's fees have been waived. The cost is \$85 and includes lunch. On Friday, October 22, the WCTE convention (Finding a Balance: Traditional content vs. contemporary technology) will be held at the Ramada Inn Convention Center, and the keynote speaker is Hilve Firek. Again, the cost is \$85 and includes lunch. T. Scott will send out save the date cards for the Fall convention to those holding a 300 licensures. Sectionals are still needed: a call for proposals is on the website; Pasternak will send out a call to member of the writing project; Aprill will inform the Minnesota council of English; Barrington will include a call in the *Update*.

9. Archives – Emily Tymus Ihrke no report given

g. Officer Reports

1. Director at large (Past President) – Emily Tymus Ihrke

2. Second Vice President – Scott Oates

We will not be having a state wide convention for the fall of 2011 because the NCTE convention will be held in Chicago in November, and it is believed that many members would only be able to attend one convention. There was a discussion to perhaps have regional meetings, team with Michigan on Indian education, have a general membership meeting with awards but no convention, or open a hospitality suite at the Chicago convention for a meeting. A decision does not have to be made at this time.

3. First Vice President – Lynn Aprill-see previous report.

4. President – Donna Pasternak

The next meeting will be held in Milwaukee on Friday, July 16th from 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. It was decided to work one day instead of two. The CEE meeting will be held on July 15th from 1:00-5:00p.m.

h. Old Business-none

i. New Business

1. Co-sponsorship of the Anti-Biased Anti-Racist Conference held on March 6, 2010 at the Indian Community School, Franklin, WI
Rigoni moved that WCTE contribute \$250 to cosponsor the conference with the Educator's Network of Social Justice. Oates seconded. Motion carried.
2. Constitution and By-Laws Revision.
Articles I-IV were revised at the February 12, 2010 meeting and will be presented at the July board meeting for consideration.
3. Affiliate meeting designees
There will be Region 4 affiliate meeting in Indianapolis on July 9-11. One to four representatives can be sent, and the organization is looking to engage new leaders for this event. WCTE would need to share the cost with the regional organization. The president will send out an e-mail to encourage nominations and self-nominations for this event, and it was suggested that the second vice president should be considered.
4. Achievement Awards judge
Erin Schwane is asking for someone else to take on the role of coordinator for the Achievement Award in Writing for student in 11th grade. It was suggested to post this opportunity in the *Update*.
5. Regional Affiliates Meeting at NCTE: At the Regional Affiliates meeting, suggestions were made to reach out to tribal schools, hold regional conferences, and provide traveling (touring) professional development. There was a discussion on ways to involve members including webinars, working with PDP's, connecting with the QEI website.

j. There was a discussion to nominate directors using a different configuration from the current one. It was decided to stay with the present system of two members for each CESA district.

k. John Pruitt will be asked if he would work with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Wendy Kropid will be asked to serve on WCEE.

I. Rigoni moved for adjournment and Oates seconded. Passed.