

Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English
Summer Board Meeting
Friday, July 19, 2013
Union South, Madison, WI

Attendance: Jess Gallo, Lynn Frick, Denise Meyer, Linda Barrington, Erin Schwane, Tamara Maxwell, Martha Handrick, Penny Parsons, John Pruitt, Jack Van Treese, Jackie Mabon, Lynn Aprill

Breakfast and welcome; 8:30-9:00

I. Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- A. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)
- B. Approval of Agenda - Add Old Business (H) and discuss online literary map in this section. Motion to approve Penny Parsons, 2nd Erin Schwane.
- C. Approval of February's Board Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve Lynn Frick; 2nd Jack Van Treese.
- D. DPI Liaison – Tamara Maxwell - Copies of DPI Liaison report were mailed previously. Discussion ensued about CCSS, testing, Smarter Balanced vs. ACT Suite. Denise reported that the new GED test which Pearson purchased does align with the CCSS literacy standards in each content area. Tamara emailed the social studies person about the WKCE -- she said that until further notice, the WKCE will be taken at the 10th grade level for science and social studies because there are no CCSS for science and social studies which will be assessed on the new ACT suite. This produced a huge reaction from the board. We went on to discuss reading and how it has changed K through post-secondary and what that means for us in the classroom. John's theme "Back to the Book" may be the perfect place to continue this conversation.

We discussed doing an op-ed piece about the humanities and the importance of our discipline. We know it, but we need to hear it and others need to hear it. We need speaking points, clear, concise, which get to the heart of the importance of our discipline.

DPI resources are available and the website has been revamped so it is usable! There will be research links, and there are LiveBinder connections to a variety of resources.

Educator Effectiveness is on its way - the pilot has been going on for the past year. ELA teachers need to be prepared for this shift and think about the domains and how to address them. Tamara would like to have our group develop good ELA SLOs for the Educator Effectiveness model.

- E. Treasurer's Report – Tom Scott - No report
- F. Committee Reports
 - 1. Membership - Denise Meyer reported on online registration, which is in the works. Denise has ideas for membership with passwords, etc, but she is working on it and will coordinate with John Zbikowski.
 - 2. Intellectual Freedom - We have a winner for this year - LGBTQ Narratives Activist-Writers Group performance piece "Conceal and Carry: Queers Exposed."

John Pruitt wrote a resolution and the NCTE board passed it - NCTE will look at it in November - English-only instruction as a form of censorship. Also working on "The Right to Write" - student writing that is controversial - working on guidelines - once they have been viewed by NCTE, we can decide what we want to do at the state level. Tamara Maxwell referenced a bill in circulation right now which would make English the state language. Also an Appleton group which is being accused of violating open records laws because they didn't invite the public to their 9th grade curriculum meeting.

Could John Pruitt create a list of resources for challenges?

3. Publications

- i. Update - Linda Barrington - Update will go out toward the end of August. We should be able to have online registration by that time, so Linda will include it in the convention information. We want to include information about the speakers, the sectionals, etc. When the convention booklet is ready, it needs to go up on the website. The booklet will probably be ready mid-September. Linda needs information by August 15th for the Update. We discussed other article needs, and Jack Van Treese will be featured as our district director.
- ii. WEJ - Jess Gallo - The baton has been passed to Marcy Glaus. Jess wrote to the new review board members to get online. There is a deadline approaching August 1st, so get people to submit. Submissions continue to taper off. The theme is "Re-inventing the future of English." Spring theme is censorship.
- iii. Website - Hopefully the hand-off goes smoothly, and we will be ready to roll August 15th.

4. Convention - Lynn Frick - Lynn handed out an update on the convention. We have 19 sessions so far, and we had an excellent brainstorming session last night on other sectionals and speakers. Numerous individuals are taking care of publicity. We need registration by PayPal and by check. Denise has ideas and people to help, but she just needs to know what we need and what the problems were last year. We discussed the transition of the website and how this might take place as far as the registration is concerned. We need to know what our current contract is.

Technology for the convention - we need two projectors and screens for the keynote - Tamara Maxwell can bring three for sectionals and Lynn Aprill should be able to check out two.

Lynn Frick will contact Tom Romano to find out what his topic is for the workshop. The key terms for administrators include CCSS, teacher effectiveness, and Smarter Balanced Assessment. We need to make sure his workshop addresses these needs. Drinks and appetizers with Tom Romano between the workshop and the board meeting on Thursday.

Jackie will take care of awards presentations, which will be in the morning.

5. District Directors - Lynn Aprill - Erin Schwane created the Wikispace and sent emails, but she is getting additional emails so at least the board is on the wiki so we can start creating content. There is a disclaimer about content and the fact that WCTE is not responsible for the content of lessons posted to the site.

Lynn Aprill will continue to contact district directors to get email addresses for the English teachers in their CESAs. An email was sent to directors with the "Save the Date" card and call for proposals for the convention.

6. Awards - Jackie Mabon - We have winners for first year teacher award and student teacher awards. They will receive membership for next year. No Pooley winners at this time.

G. Officer Reports

1. Director at large (Past President) – Kathy Nelson - No report
2. Second Vice President – John Pruitt - Oshkosh for 2014 - October 30-31 - Theme “Back to the Book” -
3. First Vice President – Lynn Frick - Nothing to add
4. President – Jessica Gallo - Summer affiliate regional meeting for next year - we need to send a couple of representatives - Denise Meyer and John Pruitt have both nominated themselves to go. Denise also said she would be willing to run for 2nd V.P. in October. Jess is resigning as president. Lynn Frick will step into her responsibilities for the October board and business meetings.

H. Old Business

1. On-line literary map - We will continue to pursue legal action to get back the initial money and to continue to work on the on-line literary map. It was decided that the bulk of the Pooley funds awarded for the map which have not been spent thus far should be used to pursue the creation of the on-line literary map. Lynn Aprill will work in conjunction with Denise Meyer on both of these issues.

I. New Business

1. Website transition - previously discussed.
2. President transition - We have a number of options. In the by-laws, it says that the president can appoint someone to finish out the term or Lynn Frick could transition to president now and appoint someone to be past president. We could also ask the past president to do the meeting for October. Lynn Frick said she would be fine running the meeting in October and then appointing a past president. Motion to have Lynn step in early given by Linda Barrington, second by Jackie Mabon. Motion carried.
3. Update items - previously discussed.
4. Support of Common Core Standards - Whether or not the organization should write a letter in support of the CCSS because other organizations are doing this at this time. Linda said she knows of individuals in other states objecting to the CCSS and some states which are rescinding CCSS. At this point CCSS has no intention to EVER write or pass science or social studies standards, contrary to what districts were told at the beginning of this process.
5. Connections between WCTE and other organizations - Jim Hodson represents the Masters in Education Online resource - wants to advertise this new educator resource of a free list of organizations granting master’s degrees - we decided to pass. Heather Dubois Bournon - Great World Text program - they are interested in advertising our organization if we promote their program. They will submit a proposal at our convention, they are having a workshop Sept. 9-10 on Snow that our board can attend, and they will put our convention information in their folders for this, and we are welcome to attend their student conference on November 19th. Spring symposium March 24th also. We decided we would love to promote them and have them promote us!
6. Convention committee - we will continue the conversation about how we might put a convention committee together to lend some continuity to the planning and take some of the pressure off the first v.p.

J. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by John Pruitt, second Linda Barrington - 1:06 p.m.

What are we reading?

Teaching Digital Natives by Mark Prensky

Jess Gallo - Dancing at the Rascal Fair

Lynn Frick - In the Woods by Tana French

Denise Meyer - Bad Monkey by Karl Hiaasen

Linda Barrington - The Fallen Angel by Daniel Silva

Tamara Maxwell - And the Pursuit of Happiness by Mara

Martha Handrick - Hamlet's BlackBerry: Building a Good Life in the Digital Age by

William Powers and Boarding School Seasons also recommended The Round House

Jack Van Treese - Walden

John Pruitt - England England by Julian Barnes and She Hath Been Reading by Katherine Scheil

Jackie Mabon - The Center of Everything by Laura Moriarty and Lean In by Cheryl Sandberg

Lynn Aprill - Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith