

MINUTES
North Dakota Teacher Center Network (NDTCN)
October 22, 2008
2-7 p.m. CDT
Kelly Inn, Fargo

Participants

Teacher center directors in attendance were NDTCN President Marty Odermann-Gardner, NDTCN Vice President Deb Sisco, Jennifer Carlson, Jenny Deitz, Mary Geffre, Linda Holdman (Grand Forks policy board), Darlene Schwarz, Sandra Schilke and Sandy Zahn. Advisory Board member Dakota Draper attended, along with Dana Schaar of Clearwater Communications.

Welcome & Call to Order

President Odermann-Gardner called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

Geffre moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008, meeting. Schilke seconded the motion, and it passed.

NDEA Report: ND Commission on Education Improvement

Draper presented an update on the work of the ND Commission on Education Improvement, which is chaired by Lt. Gov. Dalrymple. He said the discussion has been based on the Picus Report and focused on issues such as student contact days, teacher professional development days, a three-tiered diploma system, coaching, mentoring and career counselors. There has been no discussion on funding, which will be dependent on the Nov. 4 election results on the ballot measures. Dalrymple has been pushing to have the final report done on Nov. 6. Draper is concerned that the result will be an "all or nothing" vote on a "take it or leave it" proposal. After a proposal is approved by the commission, it will be sent the appropriate legislative committee(s) for consideration.

Draper said there has been some talk about incorporating teacher centers into regional education associations (REAs), but the NDEA has made the point that the organizations already work together. He isn't sure anyone has really heard this position.

The next commission meeting is Nov. 6 at 9 a.m. in Bismarck (usually the Roughrider Room at the Capitol). It is open to the public.

Draper will have Greg Burns or LeAnn Nelson follow-up with Odermann-Gardner regarding additional information on the commission's work.

Notes: The Picus Report is posted on the NDEA website: <http://nd.nea.org/teachingandlearning/picus.html>. Commission members and minutes are posted at <http://governor.nd.gov/highlights/070604.html>.

Financial Report

Sisco moved to approve the meeting and meal expenses. Schwarz seconded the motion, and it passed.

Travel vouchers were distributed (a receipt is needed for the hotel only, and the reimbursement check will come from Minot State University). Schaar will e-mail directors the electronic voucher.

Schilke moved to approve a stipend for directors' attendance at the meeting. Schwarz seconded the motion, and it passed. Sisco moved for a stipend of \$150 per director. Geffre seconded the motion, and it passed.

The financial report was reviewed. Warmoth will be asked to add the location to the meeting expenses in the description column so that the difference in reimbursements to directors is clear. Zahn moved to approve the financial report as presented. Carlson seconded the motion, and it passed. The redistribution of extra marketing dollars will be discussed at the May meeting.

The NDTCN relationship with ND Game & Fish was discussed. Centers have four trunks from Game & Fish; last year each center received \$200 for upkeep of the trunks. Game & Fish has not been working with centers to set up workshops as has been done in the past. Sisco will contact Jeff Long at Game & Fish to discuss partnering opportunities, including collaboration on workshops, statewide newsletter advertising, etc.

Business Items

REA/Teacher Center Partnerships

Odermann-Gardner reported on an e-mail and phone discussion with Valerie Fischer of DPI. Fischer wanted the NDTCN to discuss 1) who would present the budget request to the legislative committees, 2) a plan for communication with legislators regarding the request, and 3) the relationship between centers and REAs and the need for both. Each center discussed its written report on relationships with REAs and other partners.

Legislative Discussion

Odermann-Gardner will work with Schaar to develop a booklet for distribution to the legislators on the appropriations committees in the Senate and the House. They will draft an outline with requests for specific information from each of the centers. Directors will approve the final draft of the booklet. Per discussion, the booklet may include the following:

- NDTCN mission and goals
- How centers serve the needs of teachers (this may be unique to each center and those they serve)
- Goal 1 – paragraph from each center on its primary activities (lead role)
- Goal 2 – paragraph on primary partner(s), focus on joint projects, letters of support (need to determine who letters should be addressed to)
- Goal 3 – summary of network

Odermann-Gardner mentioned that disability standards require 1½ spaces between lines and fonts such as Arial, Calibri and Helvetica at a minimum size of 11.

Sisco moved that Clearwater prepare a 2-page, 4-color handout (revision of 2007 document) for all legislators and a booklet for committee members. Schwarz seconded the motion. Sisco amended her motion to cap the dollar amount paid to Clearwater for the work at \$1,000. Schwarz agreed to the amendment, and the motion passed as amended. Schaar stated that she thought the work could be completed for that amount, but she would let the NDTCN know if additional funds would be required.

Geffre moved that Odermann-Gardner write a letter to all legislators regarding the NDTCN request (as was done in 2007) and distribute it along with the handout and brochure in January (at the appropriate time based on discussion with Fischer). Deitz seconded the motion, and it passed. The letter will be shorted to one page and will include the mission statement, a short history, review of 2007-2008 activities, the budget request, and the names of all directors. The letter will be sent to all directors for review prior to distribution.

Advisory Board

Sisco and Odermann-Gardner explained that the NDTCN has always had a senator and representative on the Advisory Board to help secure support for the NDTCN. Rep. Ole Aarsvold is not running for re-election, so the NDTCN needs to find another representative to serve on the Advisory Board. The ideal individual would serve on the Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division and be a Republican (Sen. Larry Robinson is currently on the Advisory Board; he serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and is a Democrat). Sisco has asked Rep. Matt Klein of Minot to join the Advisory Board but has received no response.

After committee assignments are made in December, the NDTCN will seek a representative to serve on the Advisory Board. Directors will contact their legislators after the election to secure support for the centers.

Annual Report

Geffre moved to approve the annual report with the change from “ND Joint Powers Agreements” to “ND Regional Education Associations” on page 12. Schilke seconded the motion, and it passed.

Website

The legislative handout, minimum standards and annual report (pages 1-8) will be posted on the NDTCN website. Options for putting a counter on the website will be explored.

Other

There was discussion of the REA bill being considered by the Interim Education Committee.

Other Reports

New Center Director Training

Odermann-Gardner met with Deitz prior to the meeting. Carlson and Zahn said they did not need additional training at this time.

There was a discussion of how to report center hours when directors are wearing multiple hats. There was also a discussion of benefits (who has them and who doesn't) and the difficulty of finding directors who are only employed half-time. All agreed that – in most cases – it would be difficult to hire a director without a partner to also employ the director to ensure full-time work.

Advisory Board

Odermann-Gardner will write a letter to Doug Johnson to see if he is interested in continuing to serve on the Advisory Board. Schwarz contact Karen Kautzmann with NDCEL about serving on the Advisory Board if Johnson is not interested in doing so.

Other

The next meeting will be held over IVN on Dec. 9 from 9-11 a.m. Schaar will contact Fischer about presenting HIV/AIDS information during the meeting. Directors should e-mail Odermann-Gardner their IVN location request if it is not at the local university/college.

The spring meeting will be held in Bismarck on May 19 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Adjournment

Geffre moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Zahn seconded the motion, and it passed.