

MINUTES
North Dakota Teacher Center Network
January 5, 2007
9 – 11 a.m. CST
IVN Rooms as Assigned

I. Participants

In attendance were President Marty Odermann-Gardner, Vice President Doris Griffin, Pat Beil, Valerie Fischer, Darlene Schwarz, Sandra Schilke, Deb Sisco, Nadine Torgerson and Dana Schaar.

II. Welcome & Call to Order

President Odermann-Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

III. Approval of Minutes

Fischer moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2006, meeting. Griffin seconded the motion, and it passed.

IV. Financial Report

Approval of Bills

Treasurer Teresa Loftesnes has a new position at Minot State University so a financial report was not available. Bills should continue to be submitted to her until further notice.

Advertising Funds Report

Schaar reported that the projected statewide newsletter advertising to date is \$9,625, approximately \$1,200 more than the total advertising revenue for 2005-06. She anticipates additional advertising in April and May to generate additional funds of about \$1,000 for 2006-07. This would result in approximately \$2,000 more in advertising revenue for this year over last year.

Schaar stated that the design of the new brochure and legislative piece by Clearwater Communications approved at the October meeting had been completed in 17 hours at a total cost of \$1,020. A bill was sent to Odermann-Gardner in December. Odermann-Gardner commented that this was under the \$1,200 approved for the project.

Schaar presented bills for printing of the brochure and legislative piece. One thousand brochures were printed at a cost of \$393.26. Two hundred legislative pieces were printed at a cost of \$140.40. Fischer moved to approve the bills as presented. Beil seconded the motion, and it passed.

Odermann-Gardner expressed appreciation for the work done by Clearwater Communications.

V. Other Reports

New Center Director Training

At the October meeting, it was decided to hold off on new director training until people came on board in Grand Forks and Mayville. Since these positions are still vacant, Fischer will take the lead on providing training via conference call or IVN meeting with new directors Schilke and Schwarz. She anticipates it will take a couple of hours and will work with the new directors to schedule a time.

Suggestions for new director training included:

- HIV/AIDS grant information
- Working with policy boards and understanding governance structure
- Relationships with JPAs (liaisons, NDTCN on periodic JPA agendas to share center opportunities for curriculum, professional development, etc.)
- Partnerships and changing role of NDTCN
- NDTCN as provider of teacher training and professional development – how to and partnerships
- Discussion of acronyms
- Politics of NDTCN

Fischer will focus on core training with the two new directors. There was agreement that many of the issues identified above should be a continuing part of NDTCN agendas.

Fischer stated that is important to continue communication with Grand Forks and Mayville. A director had been hired in Mayville but has since resigned. Odermann-Gardner received a brief outline from Grand Forks regarding its plan to move forward but has not yet received a detailed account. She stated that Grand Forks is trying to interview soon so she will touch base with the centers and report back to NDTCN.

Odermann-Gardner asked for opinions about having a discussion with Mayville similar to the one held with Grand Forks at the October meeting. The consensus was for Odermann-Gardner to do so. Beil stated this is important as NDTCN is asking for increased funding this year.

Odermann-Gardner asked about any fallout from the Fargo closing, but Fischer said there wasn't much. Fischer would like to see Fargo reconsider in the next couple of years, perhaps start small and work with a JPA to build on opportunities there.

For both Grand Forks and Mayville, there are many opportunities for partnerships such as universities and JPAs. Often directors' jobs blur, such as Beil and Sisco. Odermann-Gardner and Fischer will both follow-up with Grand Forks and Mayville.

HIV/AIDS Funding

Fischer stated the grant year ends Feb. 28. There are some additional dollars if needed for more training so requests should be submitted. The proposed dollar amount for the year starting March 1 is same as the past year.

March 1 marks the fifth year of the five-year grant. According to Fischer, this coming year will serve as a springboard for the next five-year grant cycle. This means that evaluation will go beyond process (counting) to outcome (i.e., Does the training make a difference? Does it decrease and/or eliminate behaviors? Has it proven its worth? etc.). Fischer will need NDTCN participation in these conversations.

Griffin asked how the new "Teens Caring for Themselves" curriculum is to be implemented. Fischer stated that it aligns well with the new health standards that are being developed. She suggested contacting Barb Yorum of Valley City who developed the curriculum if there is interested in training. Fischer will check into the possibility of using HIV/AIDS dollars to fund the training and if credit might be available. She will report back to the directors.

VI. Business Items

2007-2009 NDTCN State Funding

There was discussion regarding the best way to distribute the legislative piece and letter to legislators. Schaar suggested distribution at the legislators' desks at the Capitol. Beil will contact Sen. Robinson to ask him to sign off on the materials for distribution.

Clearwater Communications will prepare and copy the letter, which will list all the directors' names and Odermann-Gardner's signature. Clearwater will then prepare the materials and distribute to legislators. This work is not in the Clearwater contract. Griffin moved to approve up to four hours of legislative work by Clearwater Communications at the rate of \$60 per hour. Beil seconded the motion, and it passed.

Fischer suggested that NDTCN consider producing other materials for social marketing purposes, such as notepads or pens for use in the future. Griffin said special needs students sometimes make notepads as projects. This item will be placed on the agenda for the May meeting, and everyone is encouraged to bring ideas and prices about social marketing materials.

Distribution of the brochure was discussed. Potential recipients include JPAs, superintendents, universities and potential advertisers. Fischer will check with Bev Sandness at EPSB to see if the brochures could be sent in correspondence to new teachers. Schaar will mail the extra legislative pieces and brochures to the directors and Fischer.

Fischer said the NDTCN line item in DPI budget is \$276,000. She usually receives 7-10 days notice prior to the hearing. She suggested encouraging Advisory Board members Rep. Aarsvold and Sen. Robinson to ask their fellow legislators for support. Odermann-Gardner will be available the day of the hearing to testify, if asked. Griffin will be Odermann-Gardner's backup if she is unavailable. Brochures will be taken for distribution at the hearing. Fischer said anyone is welcome to attend, and she could testify if no directors were available.

There has been a Teacher Center Day at the legislature in the past. Beil said it has been a while since it has been done. NDTCN brought materials for display on the second floor. Beil said legislators didn't have much time to talk, and Fischer suggested that it is not really necessary. Everyone agreed to forego this activity again this session.

Items from the Floor/Other

It was suggested that the next meeting be held on Monday, May 21, at the Hughes Education Center in Bismarck. Last year's meeting ran from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Schwarz will check on room availability at Hughes. Directors should check their calendars and e-mail Schaar regarding their availability. At the May meeting, each director will have 15 minutes on the agenda to share a center project. This time will allow for the exchange of ideas to further the network mission.

Beil said that the size of her newsletter makes it too big for distribution to some of the other directors. She asked if it was then necessary to mail a hard copy instead. Torgerson asked that each center continue to send its newsletter to the other centers as newsletters are helpful in connecting the centers and providing new ideas.

VII. Adjournment

Odermann-Gardner adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.