MINUTES  
North Dakota Teacher Center Network (NDTCN)  
April 30, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. CT  
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library

Participants  
Teacher Center directors in attendance were NDTCN President Jennifer Carlson, NDTCN Vice President Sandy Zahn, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Cynthia Jelleberg, Dawn Olson, Darlene Pullen, David Richter, Darlene Schwarz, and Janet O’Hara (for Nancy Burke). Advisory Committee members Lucy Fredericks, Mari Fridgen, Kim Jones, and Peg Wagner attended, along with Dana Schaar Jahner of Clearwater Communications.

Welcome & Introductions  
President Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Approval of Minutes  
Jones moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2014, meeting. Jelleberg seconded the motion, and it passed.

Financial Report  
Carlson reported on the NDTCN budget; year-to-date expenses are $9,603.35. Schaar Jahner stated advertising revenue is $10,375.00. Zahn moved to approve the meeting expenses and financial report as presented. Richter seconded the motion, and it passed. Carlson declined the $500 payment to the president for this fiscal year.

Business Items  

Legislative Discussion  
The legislature approved the same level of funding – $360,000 ($20,000 per teacher center per year) – for the 2015-2017 biennium through SB 2013, the Department of Public Instruction appropriation. SB 2013 also included legislative intent regarding a merger of regional education associations (REAs) and teacher centers by July 1, 2017.

There was discussion regarding the potential merger. There was consensus that it is important for NDTCN to very clearly define the purpose of teacher centers and distinguish how the centers’ work is different from REAs. One distinction is that teacher centers are operated under the direction of a teacher advisory board while REAs are guided by an administrator-focused board.

There was consensus to proceed with the following steps:
1. Each center will submit detailed information about center activities as part of this year’s annual report submissions.
2. The strategic planning subcommittee (Carlson, Zahn, Jones, Richter, and Wagner) will meet to review the annual reports to determine any information that is missing, as well as areas of commonality between centers. Using this information, the subcommittee will present recommendations for finalizing the NDTCN strategic plan at the fall meeting.
3. Once NDTCN has finalized its strategic plan, a meeting with REAs will be held to discuss the proposed merger and how to proceed.

Election  
Zahn moved to nominate Carlson as president, and Pullen seconded the motion. Richter moved to cease nominations for president, and Jelleberg seconded the motion. The motions passed.

Annual Report  
There was discussion that an organization chart is needed for the next legislative session, including NDTCN, teacher centers, policy boards, fiscal agents, etc.
Jones moved to approve June 15 as the deadline for submission of each center’s preliminary amendment checklist with the Review Committee’s goal to evaluate and approve funding to centers by Aug. 1, the final deadline for submission of all center annual report materials (amendment checklist, partnership list, financials). Jelleberg seconded the motion, and it passed.

Fridgen moved to include the list of items requested by last year’s Review Committee as part of this year’s annual report requirements, the center’s fiscal agent, and a narrative of all activities completed in the past year along with identification of which NDT CN goal it falls under. Zahn seconded the motion, and it passed.

Review Committee
Jones nominated Glenda Fauske for a two-year term on the Review Committee with Fridgen as an alternate. Pullen seconded the motion, and it passed. Other Review Committee members include Carlson, Zahn, Wagner, and Jones (in last year of her two-year term).

Newsletter
The newsletter will continue in its current format and ad rates will remain the same for 2015-2016.

Clearwater Contract
Richter moved to continue the contract with Clearwater Communications for another year at the same fee. Schwarz seconded the motion, and it passed.

Other Reports

DPI
Fredericks shared she has been in her position for three years, and her work is focused on schools with Native American students.

Wagner reported DPI will be hiring a director of academic standards. Her focus is on implementation of Common Core standards for English and math. She is working with a four-state partnership (Montana, South Dakota, and Iowa) on a math leadership project for grades 7-12, which includes North Dakota teachers, higher education, and REAs. The purpose is to identify ideas to help teachers implement math standards and then share this in schools across the state; higher education is focused on preservice teachers and REAs on paraprofessionals and substitutes. The TSC unit is working on principal and teacher evaluation systems.

ESPB
Fridgen reported the office is moving from Suite #303 to #204 in the same building. Schools are struggling to find teachers, so ESPB is granting licenses in new situations that haven’t arisen before and trying to be flexible. One new option is a Teacher Alternative Flexibility Endorsement (TAFE). There has also been a focus on alternate access licenses where individuals have a subject-specific degree, such as biology, but no education classes; they are allowed three years to get certified but can teach during that timeframe.

Giant Maps
The working group of Carlson, Pullen, Richter, Weiser, and Zahn met to discuss producing a giant map of North Dakota that may be purchased by each center.

Weiser noted the North Dakota Geographic Alliance is not able to proceed with the project at this time due to national directives. It is possible National Geographic will produce state maps as its 2017 initiative.

Richter reported a high-resolution map is available from the Department of Transportation, and he will contact printers to determine the cost of printing maps approximately 26 by 35 feet. Pullen is researching cylinders that could be used to house and transport the maps.
**Centers**
Carlson reported Lake Region is buying books to go along with Steve Dunn writing workshops. They hosted a winter in-service and used advisory board members as hosts. She is encouraging advisory board members to be leaders, such as facilitating regional PLCs.

Zahn said Valley City has purchased additional LEGO® kits and more RealCare® babies for health classes. The Digitalis® planetarium continues to be very popular. They are hosting summer poverty and wildlife workshops and fall bus driver training.

Dulski-Bucholz reported Mayville has its board in place and established a web presence. They provided some support to the Red River Valley Education Cooperative (RRVEC) for its MLK in-service. Other activities include involvement with a Common Core state standards grant, STEM activities, campus diversity events, tech kit distribution grant, RRVEC tech day in June, coffee with special education students, and Science Teacher Association conference. They fixed their RealCare® babies under warranty and also purchased physical education resources, such as heart rate monitors.

O’Hara said Grand Forks is regrouping and in transition because there will be a new REA director. They hosted a Holocaust training with UND and will be offering a tech day based on an interest survey completed by teachers. The website has been updated, and they are looking for ways to bring in preservice teachers.

Richter reported Williston is no longer offering a big winter in-service, so this opens new opportunities for use of center funds.

Schwarz said Bismarck membership continues to increase, as they are very focused on inviting preservice teachers to the center. They also work with public libraries to share their information with schools. Makerspace continue to be popular. Schwarz announced she is retiring at the end of June, and everyone congratulated her.

Pullen reported Minot continues the popular Hooked on Fishing camp with Game and Fish. Other classes include poverty training and a virtual arts class. They are working securing a South America giant map for next year. They are also looking at purchasing a Digitalis® planetarium, potentially through an REA loan as well as business sponsorships or grants.

Jelleberg said North Central sends iPad kits to schools with staff. They also have LEGO® kits and the whale. They are working with STEM clubs in high schools and training high schools students to help elementary students. They are buying back books from schools that have purchased them for book reads so they are then available to other schools. Jelleberg also explained they are developing a mentor program for second-year teachers as ESPB is providing the first year. They have provided suicide prevention training in schools, which has also been requested in communities and for support staff.

**Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be held in Bismarck in September; a meeting date will be determined via Doodle.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.