Present: Pat Beil, Valley City Area Teacher Center
Vern Cermak, Bismarck Area Teacher Center
Theresa Loftesness – Minot State University
Linda Johnson, Department of Public Instruction
Marty Odermann-Gardner, West River Teacher Center
Vance Olson, Williston Area Teacher Center
Deb Sisco, Minot Area Teacher Center, Network President
Darren Sheldon, Devils Lake Area Teacher Center
Ann Sorteberg, Mayville Area Teacher Center
Ione Swenson, Cass County Teacher Center
Lyn Willoughby, Grand Forks Area Teacher Center

Guests: Jim Jacobson, Deputy Director for Protection & Advocacy Project
Barb Solberg, ND University System Online
Bob Larson, ND University System Online
Lou Aronson, ESPB

Call to Order: President Deb Sisco called the meeting to order.

Common Ground Training for Parents and Teachers: Jim Jacobson, Deputy Director for Protection and Advocacy Project. The Protection and Advocacy Project is a federally funded disability rights protection agency. They also offer the “Common Ground” training program for parents, teachers, and educational service providers. The goal of the training is to help participants to develop communication and conflict resolution skills; to have teachers leave training with a better sense of what parents go through; to have parents leave with better sense of what teachers go through. Attached credits can be obtained through UND. Trainings have been held in Minot and Mayville. In order to conduct training they expect a minimum of 20 participants in urban areas, 12 in rural areas. Independent living centers in the community have been partners. Upper Valley ARC and special education units have been sponsors in the past. There is no cost to the participants; it is funded in part by the state improvement grant. Stipends are available to parents who attend, to cover childcare costs, in the amount of $105.

Contact Information:
ND Protection and Advocacy Project
400 E. Broadway, Suite 409
Bismarck, ND  58501-4071
701-328-2950 or 1-800-472-2670
1-800-366-6888 (TDD Relay)
www.ndpanda.org or email: panda@state.nd.us

ND University System Online: Barb Solberg, Bob Larson, NDUSO. The NDUSO is about 2½ years old. It serves as a coordinating agency for all of the online education among the 11 public North Dakota institutions of higher education. As a result of their
collaboration and coordination, they are able to offer a variety of certificate and two-year degree programs online. They are interested in working with the Teacher Center Network to promote the offerings they have in response to the No Child Left Behind act. They are planning a NCLB link on their web site (www.nduso.org) and wish to also have a link featured on our website. Additionally, they wish to purchase advertising and promotional space in our newsletters. They also produce a quarterly newsletter and would be willing to feature out information as well. They will be presenting at the upcoming TNT Conference.

**ESPB Requirements and NCLB Act:** Lou Aronson, ESPB Portfolio Coordinator, laronson@state.nd.us, 701-662-7339. Ms. Aronson presented extensive information about the ESPB proposed teacher licensure qualifications that are before the state legislature as House Bill 1489. This bill has been heavily debated and may yet be revised. The intent of the new guidelines was to address the federal NCLB requirements in the least restrictive way possible. A handout of the guidelines was provided. If passed, HB1489 would go into effect June 30, 2006. Teachers must make arrangements to address those requirements by that date. One of the options that teachers have to show evidence that they are highly qualified according to NCLB is to prepare a portfolio according to ESPB guidelines (will be available). Praxis II testing will also likely be implemented. She recommended that Teacher Centers provide the following supports to teachers in light of the likelihood that some form of the guidelines will be put into place:

- Praxis II Test Prep
- Web-based portfolio development educational sessions/workshops (ESPB will be putting those together and disseminate the template
- Provide technology training/support so that teachers can handle the electronic requirements of this new portfolio

Information is also available on the ESPB web site at: www.state.nd.us/espb.

**NASA Classes** – Some of the Centers are hosting courses this summer. NASA is sending a trainer to the state. Each Center has the option of tailoring the training from a menu of courses. Directors should contact Suzette Bieri at UND NASA Educational Center to coordinate state dates and locations.

**Website and Email Listserv** – Lyn Willoughby updated web and listserves recently. M/S/P: Sheldon, Odermann-Gardner: to pay Lyn Willoughby $250 per annum to continue maintaining the listserv and web site for the Teacher Center Network. This arrangement will be reviewed on an annual basis. The first payment will occur on June 15, 2004.

**North Dakota Math Science Alliance:** Deb Sisco reported that the NDMSA met and decided to continue as an organization. They are very interested in providing activities related to NCLB and have received some funding toward such ends. They are also interested in resuming a relationship and collaborating with the Teacher Center Network. The NDMSA now meets twice at year: as part of the NDEA conference and also at the NDMSA conference. Both of those events will be held in Grand Forks this next school year.
**Legislative Update:** Deb Sisco reported that she recently contacted Bonnie Miller, DPI Fiscal Agent. The Teacher Center Network is still listed as an item in the DPI budget, and cuts do not seem likely at this point in the session. We can likely expect to receive the same funding as the last biennium.

**TNT Conference:** Conference arrangements are being handled out of Valley City (CII) this year. This year’s conference is June 11 – 13. Pre-conference activities will be held in Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks. Conference itself will be held in Grand Forks. Attached credit will be available through the NDSU/UND/MiSU campuses.

**HIV/STD’s Training Grant:** Linda Johnson, DPI Liaison and Director of School Health Programs reported that North Dakota has been selected as one of 18 states to be a coordinated school health state. This includes the award of a $3.5M grant to conduct related activities over the next five years. Funds will be targeted to schools that are identified as AYP (failing to meet adequate yearly progress). Linda will add to her staff to head up the new initiatives. The existent training grants that Centers have been receiving will continue, although at a reduced rate, although funds may now be available to conduct new kinds of training and programs as well. Linda also shared information about an upcoming Meth summit and the newest results from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. YRBS is available on the DPI web site. Both should be advertised in the newsletter. Linda is also preparing a quick facts sheet about HIV education – what the law says about training teachers for use with school officials.

**School – to – Work Grant Report:** Lyn Willoughby, Grant Coordinator provided a handout itemizing current expenses and remaining funds. As of April 1, 2003, unexpended/unencumbered grant funds totaled $3,484.00. Teacher Centers still interested in using STW funds for activities prior to June 15, 2003 should send email to Lyn to request funds and arrange for direct billing of expenses.

**Annual Report Format:** Vern Cermak provided a handout of a suggested standardized format for expense reporting for the Network annual report. Suggested changes were discussed and Lyn will make the requested adjustments to the online form.

**Approval of Network Constitution and By-Laws:** The special committee to draft a constitution and by-laws convened in November 2002 and a draft was provided via email to all directors. Additional email discussion and suggested amendments to the document were also made. M/S/P: Swenson, Willoughby to approve and incorporate the following amendments to the document:

- President and Treasurer to be elected in odd years, Secretary and Vice President to be elected in even years.
- President must provide 30 days advance notice of upcoming meetings and an agenda to the other directors.
- President elected at the last scheduled Network meeting of a school year.
- The guidelines for minimum funding standards for Teacher Centers document incorporated and identified as Amendment 1 to the Constitution.
- Teacher Center directors will be invited to attend every meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Revised and approved copies of the constitution and by-laws will be prepared and disseminated to all Center directors by the Network Secretary.

**Election of officers:** Elections were tabled until next fall, to be handled at the next meeting of the Teacher Center Network.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Teresa Loftesnes, Network Treasurer. An accounting of the Network funds were provided as a handout. Remaining funds at the end of the biennium will be divided among Centers and disbursed. They should be reported as additional Legislative allocation funds in the first line of the annual report.

**The next meeting of the Network will be held in October 2003 in Grand Forks as part of the NDEA Conference. Time and location are TBA.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Willoughby
Network Secretary and Director, Grand Forks Area Teacher Center