

National Network for Educational Renewal

Executive Board Meeting – December 7-8, 2012 (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

EB Members Present: Ann Foster, Deb Shanley, Greg Bernhardt, Leslie Wilson, Audrey Allen, Vi Florez, Jean Eagle, Lemuel Watson, Nick Michelli, Dennis Potthoff the 2013 planning committee joined the group for an update.

1. **Opening comments** welcome by Dean Howell from UNM Following is a summary of his comments: Leverage Council of Great City Schools conference which is in ABQ adjacent to the NNER conference. Note the current context for education, teacher education and the confluence of reform movements, Dean Howell called for activism with colleagues in P-12 and universities. Our work is to clarify the working environment in which we work. We all desire quality which is not part of the conversation and we will have to fight for this—engage all including policy makers and infuse our programs with quality. He referenced an article in the ABQ newspaper—we need to shape the future rather than have it shape us. Recognize teacher education includes public schools, colleges of education, A&S, and community. Collaborate with CGS to have both groups working together and supporting teacher prep and public school work. Dual meeting was suggested—maybe do this at the conference, find ways to cross borders, Dean Howell noted that the UNM College of Education has the technology to support a border crossing meeting. Follow up with UNM on connecting the CGS perspective and the NNER work. Vi noted that the ABQ superintendent will be invited to serve on a panel at the conference.
2. **Transition and RFP process** Greg reviewed the process to date to prepare for the conference call at 11:00 a.m. The proposal encourages a variety of options for hosting and leadership. The question of connecting the hosting responsibilities and the ex director role was discussed. Deb Shanley will lead the conversation and board members will talk about vision and momentum.
3. **2012 conference feedback;** discussion on the timeframe for the sessions; should we continue to hold two or more presentations per session to ensure attendance, the advantages are that we can accommodate many sessions and have good attendance the disadvantage is the shortened time for in-depth interaction. Could we add poster sessions? Attendance at the sessions was excellent. Is there a balance between time allocation and attendance? Include information on session length on the call for proposals. The timekeepers from CSU were very helpful in keeping things moving on schedule.

4. **2013 Conference Brainstorming from 2012 conference evaluations:** Could we do a rotating schedule that includes all settings? Is there a way to ensure that all settings are included in the conference? Reserve one room for conversation? The board met with 7 members of the Albuquerque planning committee and had conversations about planning and content. The conference dates are Oct. 10-12, 2013.

5. **Feedback on RPF (Greg has notes which were distributed to the google group)** Callers included Molly Munson-Dryer, Charlotte Harris, Colleen Finegan, Jim Tomlin, Audrey Kleinsasser, John Smith, Adrienne Hyle/8.

6. **Membership update**—conversation was on how to recruit new individual members. Like minded organizations, people in former settings, retirees, former members who have moved were listed as examples. Should we reach out to a larger group beyond those in education? University of Southern Maine has dropped membership, three settings are exploring membership. The web page has information on individual membership, and the institutional membership processes need to be put on the web site. Are there ways to engage individual members more actively? Discussed the three membership options (individual, affiliate, and institutional)
 - Agreed to remove the affiliate and institutional membership options from website access in terms of processing. These membership opens should be announced on the website but processed the old fashioned way.
 - Agreed to consider positive action strategies for promoting the individual membership

7. **Website update, feedback, improvements, use, future plans**Issue #1: Reviewed recent upgrades to the NNER website
 - Discussed user name/password confusion—need for clarification
 - Accolades for the hired webmaster – Chris Rodriguez (Boston, MA)
 - Discussed new links to Facebook, etc. we need to continually monitor this and update it

8. **General Budget Conversation**

Issue #1: Reviewed the status of the 2012 budget

 - 86% of the budget expended as of December 5, 2012
 - Discussed the size of the long term savings account; The NNER has approximately one full budget year in reserve; this has been a goal for the organization for some time.
 - A portion of the current (reserve/long term savings account includes approximately 50% of the setting dues for the coming year; discussed strategies for modifying the budget report to “separate” the reserved funds from already paid current funds)

Issue #2: Reviewed the proposed 2013 Budget

- Projected the number of settings will remain stable – this means a stable income for 2013 also
- The proposed 2013 budget was unanimously approved with the following conditions (Allen/Florez).
 - NNER co-director Foster asked the board to adopt budget for gap from 2012 to 2013 when the governing council meets in March to formally act on the budget.
 - The EB agreed that the 2013 proposed budget will include the projected cost of an audit (in anticipation of the impending changeover in fiduciary responsibility to a TBD NNER host setting)
 - The EB agreed to pay honorariums of up to \$300 per setting to support staff within the Colorado State, Wyoming, and Nebraska settings who made extraordinary contributions to the 2012 Annual Conference.
 - Motion (Wilson, Florez) to offer \$3,000 (maximum) mini-grants to support regional leadership associates program between 2013-2016. Regions TBD. Funding up to \$10,000 annually depending on availability of funds. Passed unanimously.
 - Motion (Michelli, Wilson) to offer mini-grants up to \$4,000 to settings desiring support for local setting infrastructure enhancement projects (maximum funding amount of \$12,000 annually depending upon availability of funds). Passed unanimously.

9. Planning for 2013 Annual NNER Conference

- Six members of the 2013 Planning Team attended this portion of the Executive Board Meeting!
- The Projected Overarching Theme for the 2013 NNER Conference, “Community Engagement to Enhance Student Learning,” was favorably received by the EB
- The Projected Conference Strands were reviewed; EB members shared possible edits to the following conference strands:
 - Civic Engagement of Community and Schools
 - Community Based Research and Inquiry
 - Purposeful Community Partnerships for Collective Impact, Learning, and Sustainability
 - Engagement for Equity and Excellence
- Possible collaborative partnerships with like-minded organizations were explored
 - Impact Organization
 - Explore
- Discussed possible Friday evening visit/dinner staged at the balloon-fest site.
- Discussed need to directly involve the native American “tribal” collaboration
- Discussed the potential for bringing P-12 student voices into the conference
- Discussed the pros and cons of scheduling a special conference event, a major interaction opportunity with members of the community, either as a THURSDAY first event or a SATURDAY final event.
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10. Planning for the 2013 Summer Symposium

- Confirmed dates are July 22-25, 2013

- Discussed availability of the Executive Board Members for facilitation
- Discussed specific topics and teaching assignments
 - The primary objective remains the same: To provide an introduction to the four moral dimensions.
 - Is there perhaps a better way to construct a week-long curriculum for accomplishing the primary objective?
- The hotel room rate was increased by \$20 per night (\$80-\$100 total)
 - The EB agreed to reduce the participation fee by \$50 to \$650 to help counter the increased hotel costs.
- Curriculum Plan for 2013 Summer Symposium
 - Simultaneous renewal to engage various groups – Vi and Lem will work on it.
 - Nick and Deb a team. One plan is to provide an update about all of the ongoing NNER work.
 - Nick will send out something to react to in the near future
 - Vi recommends the landscape – “Welcome to the conference – here are all of the issues” – by sharing common language.
 - The “democracy walk” will be used once again
 - Leslie will present stewardship;
 - Jean tentatively assigned to present the Access to Knowledge Moral Dimension
 - Dennis –Will be responsible for the online component of the Symposium;
 - The online component will provide an orientation to the NNER and also address nurturing pedagogy
 - Democracy and social justice – Deb and Nick
 - Ann and Greg will do the opening session
 - One hour to two hour for each of the aforementioned conversations/sequences
 - Sessions should be as interactive as possible – the goal is to achieve a high level of participant engagement
 - Now is the time to identify the materials (books, article, and video) to be used
 - If Vi and Lem need more time – we can add it because it is so big.
 - Question: Should we do the Socratic seminar? This is a TBD issue
 - The EB should consider using a wide range of materials with the goal of broadening perspectives – to expand work.
 - The curriculum will once again include *Education for Everyone* and also selected articles from the PDK Record – the edition of the journal that was all NNER work-related.
 - Deb recommended finding an appropriate article to address how technology influences democratic practice.

11 .Education for Sustainable Development and the U.S. TESD (Victor Nolet)

- Reaffirmed the significant and deep overlap of the NNER Agenda with this movement

- Noted that the ESD has a high volume of materials and resources that have been developed and are available
- Agreed to continue to work to identify specific areas of overlap where the two organizations might work better together/collaboratively
 - One primary overlap is the role of teacher preparation/teachers in promoting/teaching sustainability. How might this play out in specific NNER settings?
 - ESD is still working hard to define their agenda – they are in the midst of sorting out their vision/key objectives
- EB members were informed that Information relative to a recent webinar is posted on the Kappa Delta Pi website

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12. **Goodlad Occasional Papers**

EB members were reminded that Dr. Goodlad has written three occasional papers and an introduction. Dr. Goodlad would welcome letters/reflections; settings were encouraged to write a letter responding to the ideas posed by Dr. Goodlad.

13. **Groundspark Collaboration**

- Groundspark has successfully co-written a small grant with the NNER.
 - The grant calls for piloting some of their curricula/work in one NNER setting
 - The NNER will need to conceive/disseminate a process for selecting the NNER setting that will host the pilot project; this will need to be done after more key details become more clear

14. **Secretary-Treasurer Position**

- By acclaim, the EB assigned current EB secretary-treasurer, Dennis Potthoff, to serve for one additional year (2013) to reflect the value of stability during the coming months of significant NNER transition. The NNER constitution allows for the size of the EB to range from 7-9 members.

15. **Transitional Planning Teams —RFP Process (Continued)**

- The EB crafted a more specific timeline for selecting the new host setting for the NNER and for selecting the new Executive Director (ATTACH THE TIMELINE HERE?)
- The EB crafted scoring rubrics for assessing the quality of the written applications for the executive direction position and also for the host setting and also for assessing the quality of applications during the onsite visits and interviews (ATTACH THE RUBRICS HERE?)
- The EB affirmed the importance of transparency throughout the process.
 - The EB hosted a hour long conference call which provided potential settings and executive directors to inquire/ask questions
 - A cover letter will be written and will accompany information to be disseminated throughout the network regarding the current application and selection processes for the host setting and executive director positions.

- The EB crafted the first draft of an article for the upcoming NNER newsletter

15 .NNER Journal

- Deb Shanley clarified that the journal will be ready to go January and should be out in February because revision needs to be back by January 7, 2013.
- There are 14 pieces for this journal. Goal is to have a few in hand by AACTE March 1, 2013.
- There is still adequate space in the current journal for an addition item; for example, the recognition or dedication of Dick Clark
- The plan is to align the next edition of the Journal with the next conference theme.

16. Agenda for March 1, 2013 NNER Governing Council Meeting

- Proposals for NNER host site and who will go on site visit (projected 2 hours allocated for focus time)
- Discussion of 2013 Budget
- Journal Update
- 2013 Conference Update
- 2013 Summer Institution Update
- Announce Call for proposal for strengthen setting
- Announce Call for proposal for regional leadership
- Discuss Location for 2014 Annual Conference