

Urban Teacher Education Program Policy Board Meeting
E.C. Central High School Library

February 7, 2008

Minutes

Attendees: **Mr. Reid Amones** (*Principal, George Rogers Clark Middle/High School, Hammond, IN*), **Mrs. Andrée Anderson** (*UTEP School Liaison*), **Dr. Rochelle Brock** (*UTEP Executive Director*), **Dr. Victoria Chiatula** (*Assistant to the Superintendent, Gary Community School Corporation*), **Mr. Garry Graban** (*PDS Coordinator, Clark Middle/High School*), **Mrs. Sandra Irons** (*President, Gary Teachers Union*), **Mr. William Kelly** (*President, East Chicago Federation of Teachers*), **Mrs. Kathleen Kutie** (*District PDS Coordinator, East Chicago*), **Ms. Jennifer Ooms** (*UTEP Option I Student*), **Mr. Marvin Setzer** (*Grievance Chairperson, Gary Teachers Union*)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 by Mr. Kelly.

Approval of January 10, 2008 Minutes

The January 10, 2008 minutes were not approved because there was no quorum.

Introduction of S.U.R.E. Members

Dr. Brock introduced Jennifer Ooms, an Option I student pursuing certification in English. Not present was the Option II graduate student, Durga Yelamanchili, who is pursuing certification in Math. They are both completing their field experience at George Rogers Clark Middle/High School.

Mr. Reid Amones, principal at Clark was introduced.

All PDS principals will be invited to future board meetings.

Robert Noyce Grant Letters

Dr. Brock announced that she is reapplying for the grant again this year, and is using the reviewers' comments from last year to update. All paperwork has to be in Bloomington by March 15th. She asked the Board to redo their support letters from last year.

Standing Committees

Dr. Brock stated that she needs names resubmitted for committees. The current committee members are as follows:

Program/Curriculum: Dr. Victoria Chiatula, Dr. Rochelle Brock, Dr. Dorothy Ige, Jennifer Ooms

Assessment: Mr. Marvin Setzer, Dr. Rochelle Brock, Mrs. Andrée Anderson, Durga Yelamanchili

Employment: Dr. Juan Anaya, Dr. Walter Watkins, Mr. Bill Kelly, Dr. Rochelle Brock, Mrs. Andrée Anderson, Mr. Garry Graban, Mr. Amones.

Technology: Mrs. Kathleen Kutie, Dr. Judy Donovan

Marketing: Dr. Rochelle Brock, Mrs. Kathleen Kutie, Mr. Marvin Setzer, Dr. Stanley Wigle, Mr. Patrick O'Rourke

Financial: Dr. Rochelle Brock, Dr. Stanley Wigle, Mr. Patrick O'Rourke, Mr. Marvin Setzer, Mrs. Kathleen Kutie

There were no changes to the charges for each committee. (*See attached document for list of charges.*)

Mrs. Irons commented that publicity needs to be a part of the charge of the Marketing Committee. Dr. Brock stated that if we get the Robert Noyce grant that commercials and large advertisements can be done, but that some marketing must go through the university's Office of Marketing and Communications. Mrs. Irons stated that there were many calls in response to the newspaper article a few months ago, and suggested getting in touch with Gary Law who does filming for the local cable channels. Mr. Amones commented about a \$30,000 scholarship currently available to 6-yr. homeowners in Hammond that the Mayor encouraged for more buyers and less renters. Mr. Graban suggested trying to tie it in with IUN recruiters for our campus. Mrs. Kutie remarked that one main problem is many students want to go off for their college experience. The only ones that usually end up at an extension are the ones who didn't make the cut or had financial problems.

Advisory Board

Dr. Brock stated that she would like to re-implement the Advisory Board. She distributed a list of people whom she has contacted and have agreed to be members (*see attached*). The list currently consists of past students, teachers from the current PDSs, business people, and professors around the country who focus in Urban Education. She commented that it would be good for both public relations and helping with curriculum. Suggestions for business contacts included local banks, Russ Taylor from the East Chicago Education Foundation, Nancy Cochran from the Legacy Foundation, and professors to help with curriculum. Ms. Ooms stated that financial assistance to UTEP students would be a big help because many have to take out a loan for living expenses, and they need help with tuition and books. Dr. Brock commented that the individuals who commit to and supply funds to help the program will be highlighted at the awards banquet. She stated that she will submit a draft letter for approval to the board prior to sending out to the community.

UTEP Portfolio

Mr. Amones provided portfolio items. Dr. Brock stressed the need for a portfolio for both Options I and II to show qualifications, and would like to start with the new cohort. Mr. Amones devised a list of the top ten impressive things as a principal. If the student shows evidence of completion or some thought about those things on list, then they would be okay to hire. Dr.

Brock commented that students can evidence these things in a portfolio as a paper. Mrs. Irons: suggested taking a look at the NTSB for ideas on how to maintain a portfolio. Mrs. Kutie commented that the state of Indiana also has one to use as a template. Dr. Brock stressed that she would like to make it strictly urban based. Dr. Chiatula commented that she would want to see knowledge of cultural competency. One way a student can document it would be to do research to show the learning styles of African-American students, Native Americans, etc., and how their cultures impact their learning ability. Mr. Amones suggested having at least three lesson plans for different learning styles. Dr. Brock stated that she would like to implement it in the last class for graduates as a wrap up paper (case study).

Dr. Brock commented on trying to retrain teachers to address the discipline issues, which would help as a reflective piece. Dr. Chiatula stated that classroom management is huge, and will burn out urban teachers if they can't handle it. Mrs. Irons stated that the AFT has Educational Research and Dissemination program (ERD) which trains the teachers in Gary for classroom management. Mrs. Anderson commented that she was trained through it, and is very thorough. Dr. Brock stated that she would be giving information, but it would not be an IUN course for credit for undergraduates. Mrs. Kutie stated that much needs to be addressed by the university professors to make requirements of the entire class so all students walk away with the same information. Dr. Brock stated that there are currently nine competencies that are not concrete in the SOE. Mrs. Anderson commented that the nine have not changed, and they are NCATE approved. Mrs. Kutie remarked that it's not fair that our students jump through more hurdles than the other students, and that they need quality and diversity. Mr. Kelly suggested alerting students that they will have extra in portfolio for hiring purposes. Dr. Brock stated that she will present UTEPs portfolio requirements to the SOE as a model.

PDS

II/Cooperating Teacher Stipends:

There are currently nine students at Clark from both options, and four with mentors in their own classrooms. None of the nine have emergency permits.

The amount paid to teachers for field is \$188. Dr. Brock stated that she and Mr. Graban agreed not to do the \$188 for Clark, but give \$100 instead since there are so many students with so little money available.

She commented that mentors currently receive \$300, which wasn't a problem with just a few students. Currently \$875 is paid for student teaching, and will soon be costly. There is a need to revisit the money aspect of what is paid to TIs and mentors. She stated that Robert Noyce only covers Math and Science and will not address the total issue, and asked for input. Mrs. Irons suggested contacting the Knight Foundation, which used to have an initiative here in Gary. She stated that Barbara Cope is on it and would be a good contact. Her experience is that when the state was really helping mentors the results were better. She would like to find ways of rewarding them. Ms. Ooms commented that some companies give incentives, and suggested taking the teachers out to dinner or to a conference. Mrs. Irons suggested a nice thank you that doesn't have to be in dollar bills. Dr. Chiatula suggested some mentors be retirees. Dr. Brock: stated that some institutions she contacted said that they use retirees. Mrs. Irons stated that the

retirees are tired. Dr. Chiatula remarked that they maybe tired of the students, but not of prospective teachers.

Mr. Graban commented that the \$100 stipend was treated like \$1,000 in their school because the teachers had never had an offer like that before. Mr. Amones stated that they usually don't pay the teachers. Mrs. Kutie commented that they are still doing a job, and usually don't want to do it for nothing. Mr. Setzer commented that he has different point of view, which is that professionals ought to be paid like professionals. If we keep diminishing the pay, it will be hard pressed to look into teachers' faces to let them know they have to work harder for less money. Mr. Kelly commented that asking people to do things for free is wrong and a slap in the face. Mrs. Kutie stated that to ask them to keep taking less is wrong. Dr. Brock commented that what UTEP currently provides financially is more than other universities and the SOE, and that she would love to give a lot of money once we get grants. A year from now there will be nine student teachers, and right now there is no way to support that.

Dr. Brock stated that UTEP will pay Hammond teachers \$100 and find extras for them. The four mentors will receive \$150 with in-kind contributions. Dr. Brock stated that she does not want to get to the end of the year with UTEP's budget in the red. John's Arrendondo's teacher will still receive the \$875, and Mrs. Kutie and Mr. Graban will also receive stipend.

Block Grants:

Dr. Brock noted that in the past teachers applied for money from the block grants. It was used to cover travel and conferences, etc. Dr. Brock stated that she will put this subject off until the March meeting.

Next Board Meeting

Next board meeting is March 6, 2008 from 11:00-1:00 at IUN in LC 105A. Parking permits will be sent out at the end of the month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.