

Wyoming P-16 Education Council

December 13, 2010

WEN meeting

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Cheyenne – WDE Main	Mike Ceballos, Rob Black, Jim Lowham, Joe McCann, Kathryn Valido, Charles Ware, and Teri Wigert
Laramie – College of Ed.	Rollin Abernethy, Carol Kirkwood , Audrey Kleinsasser, Mike Massie
Pavillion –Wind River HS	Diana Clapp
Riverton High School	Carl Manning
Rock Springs WWCC	Karla Leach
Sheridan College	Jon Connolly , Carol Stewart
Notified as being absent	Hank Coe, Bill Sniffin, Bernadine Craft
Others expected	Superintendent Jim McBride, Rae Lynn Job, Sue Riske, Kelley Pelissier-Cheyenne; Elizabeth Simpson, WY Distance Learning Ctr. - Laramie

1. Call to Order – 3:00 p.m. – President Ceballos

- a. Roll call – Attendance is reflected above.
- b. Approval of minutes from Nov. 17, 2010 meeting: The minutes were approved with the correction that Carol Stewart was not in attendance.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Superintendent McBride welcomed the Council to the meeting, originating from the WDE WEN room, and urged the Council to keep the organization moving ahead. He noted that he and Rollin had attended a recent ESC conference; where he was very interested in presentations he attended regarding steps post secondary institutions can take facilitate student success at that level. President Ceballos thanked Supt. McBride for hosting the Council and providing office space for the executive director at WDE.
- b. Carl Manning – New Council Director appointed by the Wyoming School Boards’ Association, Trustee of Fremont Co. School District #25. Mr. Manning stated that he is a 20-year member of the school board, and has been interested in the Council’s work in the dual-concurrent enrollment area, and how students move through the school system beginning at pre-school. He is employed by the Riverton Ranger.
 - i. Members introduced themselves to Carl.
- c. Orientation –
Discussion of a planned orientation for new members and to re-ground existing members occurred during the discussion of the Council Calendar (#5).

3. Old Business – Discussion of efforts to identify new member nominees (15 minutes)

Kelley reported that there has been minimal response to the press release sent out on 11/10. One individual from the private sector has completed a nomination form, and discussions with community college faculty member asked by Audrey because of her involvement in Partnership transition work indicated that person was unable to consider membership because of other commitments.

Kathryn reported that she had communicated with each of the community colleges about the available faculty position twice, and distributed copies of the nomination form. Rollin reported that the announcement was circulated via email to all UW personnel, and at least two are intending to submit nominations. Since the Council had not set a deadline, he encouraged them to do so soon.

Teri asked for a pictorial presentation of Council members to depict its current geographical representation. Members indicated that they would be conscious of geographic representation in selecting the four new members; two from the private sector, one each from two-year and four-year postsecondary institutions.

Members recommended that Kelley contact the faculty senates at all community colleges to make sure they are aware that the Council is seeking a member representing faculty. As for the private sector members, Mike Ceballos said that he had been making personal contacts. Teri suggested a possible contact in the Powell area. Mike said that his priority is getting someone who can attend meetings regularly and he will contact potential business representatives. Sending out another press release was also mentioned.

A deadline for nominations was set for Friday, January 14, so that the Council could make appointments at its proposed January 24 meeting.

Legislative member changes. The Council bylaws say that legislative appointments are to end “at the end of his or her term in the Legislature,” intended to mean at the end of an existing term. The existing term of the current House appointee concludes in 2010 but not that of the existing Senate appointee. Mike Ceballos said that he will communicate with Sen. Coe to discuss with the legislative leadership to confirm a P-16 appointment from the House. Kathryn suggested that this should become a routine part of doing business every two years.

4. New Business – Discussion of setting up a meeting with Superintendent-elect Hill. Mike Ceballos

Teri Wigert reported that she had met with Superintendent-elect Hill and her transition staff. From the discussion at this meeting, Teri recommended that the Council put together a succinct package of information about the Council, including the charter and summary of work done, focusing upon concrete outcomes. Providing this information is necessary before the Council can propose having a meeting with Ms. Hill. Teri added that she believed there would be someone from the new administration attending the Council’s next meeting.

There was discussion about inviting Superintendent Hill to meet with the Council during its orientation, if a small block of time that would accommodate her schedule could be found. Audrey noted that the Council should be formal in its efforts to approach Supt. Hill. The group

discussed having some questions prepared for Supt. Hill that she could have in advance of the meeting regarding her expectations for the Council and her proposed outcomes for education.

Further, the Council discussed other external contacts that it would like to make, including incoming Senate President Senator Jim Anderson and incoming House Education Committee Chair Rep. Matt Teeters. In addition, the Council would like to discuss with the new Governor's administration its plans for WEPCC, and with President Buchanan, his expectations for how the Council's work in improving transitions from high school to the U.W.

President Ceballos asked that any directors with other proposed external contacts to provide them to him or Kelley. The Governor and Superintendent would be on the top of the list, and Council leadership will make sure that the full Council knows of these communication plans.

5. New Business – Discussion, modifications if necessary & approval of P-16 Council meeting schedule through March (Attachment 3) – Kelley

Executive Committee: President Ceballos said he planned to have two executive meetings a month if there were issues creating a meaningful agenda, and that he wanted to have Rollin, as past-president on the committee as well as open up membership to others who wanted to participate.

The group discussed the abbreviated list of meetings for 2011 that had been drafted (Attach. 3).

Orientation: Discussion was that the orientation for new members needed to be held earlier than February 22. As new members, Carl and Diana felt that February was too full with the legislation session running all month. An earlier February or late January date would be better. Carl noted that he may be in Cheyenne during the week of Feb. 14-18. Mike suggested either then end of January or the beginning of February.

Audrey also mentioned that it is important for all members to be routinely grounded in what the Council is about and why, and that perhaps there could be some way to remind members of core purposes at each meeting.

Retreat: The discussion was that all of the new leadership in critical positions in the state may affect the Council's focus, and that there is the potential that the Council priorities may need to change. Thus, it was determined that the Council retreat occur as soon after the legislative session as possible.

Carol Stewart noted that having these meetings as close to a weekend as possible makes it easier for teachers to attend, by keeping substitution needs at a minimum. Mike said that he planned to call members individually to see how each felt the meetings were working out for them, and that he was open to modifying the Council's schedule. After these contacts are made, there will be a full proposed calendar of meetings so as to encourage the best attendance possible.

6. New Business – Discussion of P-16 role with respect to education legislation

a. Appropriate role for a 501(c)(3) organization - (Attachment 4) – Kelley

Kelley briefly reviewed major points from the attachment, information drawn from a variety of sources:

- IRS rules say that section 501(c)(3) organizations should not have a substantial part of its activities devoted to attempting to influence legislation or lobbying. A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status
- However, organizations may involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered lobbying by limiting themselves to conducting educational meetings, preparing and distributing educational materials, or otherwise considering public policy issues in an educational manner.
- Council bylaws state that “no substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation...”
- Non-profits can prepare and distribute nonpartisan analyses (which need **not** be neutral or objective) that present facts fully and fairly, but not include a direct call to action. They can also prepare responses to requests for information and/or technical assistance to legislators.

Discussion: Members discussed that they felt they had complied with these guidelines, but had perhaps pushed for votes for SF39. Generally, in discussions with legislators, members said they had provided information and therefore stayed within the educational/informational limits. As the Council moves to increase its contact with the media, there likely will be pressure to abridge these standards, but the Council will keep statements consistent with its adopted themes and initiatives. Mike Ceballos and Karla Leach will work with Kelley to draft some messages that will prepare the Council to interact with the media and stay within these limits.

b. Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) – Rollin Abernethy

Rollin referred to the SLDS summary update that he had circulated, which he planned to present to the JEIC at the Dec. 16 meeting. He said there will be no legislation proposed for this Session, and during the interim, work will continue to design a way to access the post-education workforce data that is available and tie it into the SLDS. Workforce placement and earnings information would be stronger if eventually the prohibition in the Hathaway Logitudinal study statutes that prohibits the use of the Social Security number was removed. Other than for that, existing statutes provide authority for what is needed. He also reported that the Task Force had met with consultants from the U.S. Dept. of Ed. SDLS office who had been very helpful although there will be no federal funding available for the Wyoming SLDS. Rollin said he believed that there was real potential to evolve a SLDS building upon what already is in place – by bringing disparate systems together. Eventually, the SDLS would like to include data from Workforce Services, the Dept. of Health, early childhood and the penal system as well as the educational data to develop a very powerful system.

Mike commented that the Council needed to be well informed about the potential benefits from a SLDS and where there are needs/problems so that it could best educate and inform legislators. For example, there was some legislative concern with

the use of the SSN. Rollin acknowledged that concern, but said what had been learned so far from the U.S. Dept. consultant was that most of the barriers we have been concerned about are not barriers, e.g., FERPA. More will be understood as the Task Force continues its work and understands what is possible and what is not, in consideration of existing hardware, software, and personnel resources.

Jim Lowham asked if all the data is being gathered but with no way to link it together. Rollin responded that that is largely the case and the willingness to share it now has grown. Joe McCann noted that there is still a need to screen the potential uses of the information, but that the SLDS partners would benefit from having information that has not been heretofore shared. Mike said that it would be good to start working on talking points on the SDLS.

Rollin also spoke of a session he attended at the recent Education Commission of the States (ECS) winter conference, a series of discussions led by Tony Carnevale, from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Here he learned that, like Wyoming, many states are delving into the connection between education system outputs with workforce education. Some states facing budget reductions are going so far as to determine which college/university programs to support depending upon their graduates' success in getting jobs. Charles Ware commented that he had heard similar discussions at a Perkins Career and Technical Loan Evaluation meeting in Wash. D.C. recently.

- c. Legislation being drafted for presentation on Dec. 16 relating to distance learning incentive funding for dual and concurrent courses offered via distance learning delivery methods. It would cover the costs for students enrolled in such classes for school year 2011-2012 and offer \$500 per student to either the high school or the community college or both, depending on the MOU.

Rae Lynn Job said that this bill came about because in the SEA 52 sessions around the state, we learned about the need for the restoration of this incentive to help eliminate barriers to students taking (especially) dual enrollment courses through distance formats. The SEA 52 Consensus Group supported having it be restored. The bill provided for a pared-down version of the original incentive, to be used only for dual and concurrent enrollment classes, and to last just one year. She said this incentive would help students in rural communities gain access to courses. Karla Leach said that this needs to be considered to open doors currently closed for students. Rae Lynn noted that unfortunately it was difficult to get data to support this bill because data from when it was in place and from when it was discontinued were collected in different manners and therefore unusable.

Discussion followed including many points:

- Out-of-state entities will move into state to provide distanced education, it will be important to monitor to ensure quality is maintained as access is increased.
- Elizabeth Simpson, Director of the Distance Learning Center, said the Center is quickly getting up to speed, and next year plans to research data on the financial

pros and cons of distance education, and how funds are now being spent both internally and externally.

- There are JEC discussions of looking at distance education as an interim topic.
- Joe McCann noted that when individuals start their post-secondary careers out-of-state through distance education, they often never come back to the state. He added that it is important for Wyoming to internally work with high school students to make their last years more fruitful and to introduce them to the institutions in the state. He also said that it is difficult for school districts to arrange schedules where they can share courses. While most online classes are asynchronous, it is possible to have synchronous classes with the right equipment.
- Mike Massie noted that the incentive had been discontinued on the advice of outside consultants.
- Teri Wigert noted that this legislation would not apply the incentive for use between districts, or even within the same district, for such a use as providing a Hathaway Success Curriculum course from one high school to another. Jim Lowham wondered if there are many Hathaway courses that could not also be concurrent enrollment courses.
- Mike Ceballos said that the Council should do what it can to gather data and information to help make the one-year fix more permanent. Rae Lynn said the bill required those who received incentive funding to report their data.

Note: On 12/16, the JEIC vote to sponsor the bill resulted in a tie, thus the Committee will not sponsor the bill.

- d. Legislation relating to modifying the Hathaway Success Curriculum, allowing for students to choose from among foreign languages, fine and performing arts, and career-technical education to fulfill Hathaway Success Curriculum requirements. This draft legislation was discussed at the JEC meeting on Nov. 17 and modified.

Not discussed – meeting adjourned

- e. Legislation relating to a establishing a statewide education accountability system for K-12. This was discussed on Nov. 18, and the School Finance Committee will revisit it on Dec. 16-17. Not discussed – meeting adjourned

7. Other - Misc. discussion:

Charles Ware: There are likely to be more and more legislative issues addressing education.

Kathryn Valido: An effective one-pager on the Hathaway Success Curriculum is needed.

Diana Clapp: The Council's work in with dual and concurrent enrollment was appreciated, because it is critical for students to get their first entry into post-secondary education and break generational poverty.

Carol Stewart: Hopes the Council can address the way drop-outs who come back and finish high school are counted in the graduation statistics.

8. Adjourn – President Ceballos adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m..