

The Western Kentucky University Writing Project

Writing Advisory Board Minutes

February 19, 2000

Writing Advisory Board Minutes
February 19--The Depot at Glendale

Members present: Karen Scott, Nancy Schulten, Alice Penrod, Ann Pollard, TJ Maynard, Michelle East, Elaine Daugherty, Angela Carter, Chris Carter, John Hagaman

1. General - Info. on Breadloaf in Vermont, high school poetry contest, NWP Writing Retreat in New Mexico, Janet Allen
2. Summer Institute - Currently only 16 applicants, hope is that more will come in as the deadline approaches; possibly spread the word through the state language arts listserv; for service component, have summer institute members do fall workshops for new teachers/other, possibly at two different sites to serve more of the state, 4:00 - 7:00 to assist in getting PD credit for new teachers; Nancy would like to have names of people interested in presenting at workshops
3. Inservice - Flyers handed out for workshops (marker papers, special needs, new teachers, presentation skills, middle school); suggestions made for contacts to do presentations (Rhonda McMurtrey-special needs; Trish Fulkerson, others - needed for modeling in classrooms, teachers want to see PD ideas in action, not just discussed in workshops); we wondered if retired teachers might be able to do this modeling; discussion on parent training workshops - parents who really need the training probably would not attend, parents are probably not going to attend a meeting sponsored by a group with which they are not familiar; possibly piggy-back with other groups such as Welfare to Work, Family Resource/Youth Services Centers; Elaine and TJ will work on information for newsletter on ideas to share with parents on working with their children - ideas shared on having different stations available for students to show their parents their work during conference time, other avenues for sharing students' writing with parents; other ideas for sharing - Angela: using volunteers for conferencing with students (Angela agreed to write an article for the newsletter on her experience); Elaine: having portfolio pals - each faculty member has several students assigned with whom to conference; Kim Janes and Ann are working on Writing in the Middle for teachers from all subject areas; ideas/concerns for working with content area teachers to give them ideas about how to do writing in their content area; discussion to include grades 5-8 for Writing in the Middle workshop - a \$500 stipend is offered for the week-long workshop (with follow-ups in the fall and spring). We are looking for someone interested in leading the presentation skills workshop scheduled in September. Also, we wondered about a workshop led by a Fellow on ways to involve parents in their children's writing.

4. Writer/Teacher Research - WP Fourteen on April 15th in Allen Co. will be sharing their teacher-research projects--the event is open to all Project teachers; Donna Vincent has volunteered to host a workshop on real-world writing and possibly have a guest writer, such as a newspaper reporter, no date available at this time; mini-grants for teacher-research groups will be available for the fall - need brochures developed for people to apply for grants, (in addition to teacher-research, mini-grants available for book discussion groups, integrating technology with writing, and scholarships to NCTE/KCTE for those presenting or those going for the first time); discussed looking at scores to compare for the success of children who had Writing Project teachers vs. those who didn't; suggestions made to look at on-demand writing to get a clearer picture; possibly look at past teacher-research projects for guidance in ideas for evaluating the program

5. Young Writers' Camp - Talked to Dr. Julia Roberts about being attached to current GT summer program; last two weeks in June; mini-grants used to help fund; possibly have a guest writer (Marsha Thornton-Jones or Tricia Pollaco); for students grades 5-8; suggested Patricia Polacco for guest writer; possibly use money from the state, which must be spent before June 30, to provide for guest writer and camper scholarships; students will do writing in the morning and be involved in other Gifted Camp activities the rest of the day; suggestions made to ask for \$12,000 from state money (\$10,000 for scholarships, \$2,000 for guest speaker); address the issue as one of equity to address needs of students from rural areas; John asked for a teacher to read and do a review on Teacher-Researchers at Work by MacLean and Mohr; Karen and Ann expressed interest and took the book.

6. Publications and Website - Information shared on how to get to Writing Project website (WWW.WKU.EDU and go to English Department, then Writing Project) and shared what is on the web page; discussed having lesson plans and ideas on page, links to discussion/message boards; post minutes of the WP Board; go to www.teachers.net for information on Six Traits; John asked for suggestions on additions/improvements for the newsletter; suggestion to include other information, student work, applications for other events (Young Writers' Camp, etc.) on-line; John shared the "Portraits of Southern Arizona Writing Project Teachers and Students" with the group; teachers may want to consider sending good teaching ideas to Linda for placement in the newsletter

7. Recruitment - Suggestions submitted to John about recruiting; one was including ideas on how teachers could publish their own writing; another was having teachers, past institute members, speak to faculties at schools about the Project, possibly get retired teachers; suggestion was made to make a video, including this summer's activities and past project members working with students, to share with faculties; minority recruitment - part of the problem with minority recruitment is that teacher demographics do not reflect a great number of minorities in the schools in which Board members work; suggestions for getting Project work/student work out - student writing on bookmarks, placemats in fast food restaurants, grocery bags; possibly use Young Authors' camp to develop pieces for grocery bags/placemats

8. Continuity - Information was shared and flyers passed out for "Wonderful Wednesday" - Writing Across the Curriculum on March 22; suggestion was made to offer these workshops in the fall when teachers may be more able/inclined to attend and ideas from the workshop may be

more usable for teachers; may wish to provide scholarship support for teachers wanting to attend KCTE/NCTE - could be advertised through newsletter/web site; John asked for ideas for "open mike" readings, joint activities with other state Projects, or for other continuity ideas

9. New Business - Harry Noden would speak to a group for \$500, writer of Image Grammar; Rebecca Kai Dotlich was recommended as a guest writer/speaker for children, would be a very motivational speaker; suggestion made to possibly have an end of the year get-together with Dotlich as the speaker; Jim is returning to California; the Project will have a graduate student next year in the Project office along with a student worker

Next meeting set for April 28th, 6:00 pm CDT in Bowling Green - location TBA.

Ann brought Educational Professional Standards Board format for setting/completing goals as an example for Board to possibly use. Everyone bring an idea to share with the group at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Michelle East
