

The Western Kentucky University Writing Project

Writing Advisory Board Minutes

September 21, 2002

The Writing Advisory Board met **September 21, 2002** at Western Kentucky University.

Those in **attendance** were John Hagaman; Rogerlynn Briddon; Julie Hartman; Denita Hines; Joy Buckingham; Karen Scott; Karen Alford; Tammy Stephens; Heather Thomsen; Belinda Stark; Travis Meserve; Stephanie Martin; Chris Carter; and Beverly Heady

Those **not in attendance** Stacy Arndell; Regina Brooks; Cheryl Gilstrap; Kim Janes; and Carolyn Shelton.

We discussed and signed up for duties listed on the **ELECTRONIC MAIL SOUNDING BOARD**. Those duties included: Young Writer's Camp; Invitational Institute; Publicity/Recruitment; Assessment/Evaluation; Outreach/Inservices; Continuity (spring reunion, web site); and Continuity (newsletters, brochure).

Activities:

Things that **have happened** over the past year included having 92 applicants for the summer project. Therefore we were funded for the mini session, *Three Kinds of Writing Workshop* for 10 participants. Fifty-five young students participated in a summer poetry workshop as well.

Karen Scott and Karen Alford reported that the following workshops had been given during the past year: One Wonderful Wednesday with Kellie Long; Janet Hurt on Curriculum Mapping 34 participants; Nov. Donna Vincent on Literature Circles; Feb. Karen Scott and Alicia Markum present IMovies and book reviews. Kim Janes presented Bridging the Gap; Sylvia Abel presented Questions on Writing: Up Coming Issues; May was the first Coffee Talk at Barnes and Noble with about five people in attendance. July two workshops included Kellie Long's Open Response and Portfolio writing and Tamara Francis and Karen Howard presented Emergent Writers.

Things in the works include: *Wonderful Wednesday* on October 16, 2002 with Kellie Long presenting *Reading and Writing Connections* based on Stephanie Harvey's strategies for grades 2-8. Donna Vincent will present on November 9, *Building a Foundations for New Teachers*.

Possibilities for professional development include online workshop; book share; social writing meets; writing marathon; and a European trip that would result in presentations including power point.

Minutes were reviewed.

There was a discussion of **needs**:

- Rogerlynn Briddon pointed out the need for some help with **analysis** of high school student work and development of unit of studies for high school for new teachers.
- Karen Scott asked for contacts for someone to present a workshop with development of **play scripts**.
- Statewide projects: Literacy self study will be recommended by the Department of Education to examine student access to literacy skills. Tammy Stephens believes we will be looking at analysis of student work and also we need to focus more on carrying a **student's portfolio throughout the students' career**. Education of superintendents and principals about the whole process of writing is needed.
- Help for **Non-accountability years** including portfolio scoring training.
- **Mini-writing project** for one week or 5 Saturdays.
- **Technology** possibility including electronic portfolios, training, etc.

The committee prioritized the above needs:

1. Training for non-accountability years
2. Units of study and analysis of student work help

More possible solutions were discussed to meet these two needs.

Possible speakers for **Spring Reunion** were discussed.

Statewide project has been called off because funding was not available.

Mini-grants that were given out during the past year were described. This year we don't have as much money to fund this program. There was interest expressed in Book Study group. Also it was agreed that scholarships for KCTE/LA be given.

Samples of student work were to be sent in and accumulated to be **published online** with the prompt, student's reaction to the prompt, and the student's response to the prompt as a **resource for teachers**. There were only 7 turned in. It was suggested that maybe March was bad timing. It was decided we would try this again and start the event in November with the deadline being at our final meeting.

Under **new business** documentation was discussed.

We went through a list of teacher research papers. From this list, topics were chosen that might still be useful for today that could be **developed into a publication**.

John Hagaman asked if there was something we might do to **collect data** to show the impact of our Writing Project like the Bay Area Project of California as done as evident in their

publication. There was discussion but no decision made as to type of data and who would be included.

Tammy Stephens told us that KDE wanted to nominate a school that has seen up and down growth in all areas. She wonders what it might be like to target a low poverty, low performing school and provide intensive professional development much which could be provided by the Writing Project. Others mentioned that other basic needs had to be met such as discipline problems, family needs, student attitudes, etc. before offering professional development for teachers.

The **next meeting** will be January 11 with January 25 being the snow date.

Respectfully submitted
Joy Lynn Cox Buckingham, Recorder
