WACTE general meeting minutes – October 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Molly Quick.

The land acknowledgement was given as was a time for reflection.

Molly reviewed an outline of the agenda for the two-day meeting.

Minutes of the April WACTE general meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer’s report was approved as presented. Two institutions still owe dues.

The president’s report shared that the Executive Board attended a face-to-face summer retreat at which time the group discussed community building; developing a leadership pool; reviewing the current strategic plan which is scheduled to end spring 2023; continuing to work on social justice within the organization; and reconfiguring the website.

The role-alike groups shared summaries of their meetings:

Certification – Discussion of the various ways of handling case-by-case issues; updates on vouchers; changes on how the bots read applications at OSPI; consistency in forms for reporting is needed.

Data Administrators – Data issues continue to remain the same over time.

Field Directors – They are developing a process to select new leadership in the group. Discussion focused on program types. The group also discussed HR “exhaustion” in the districts, and its role in placements. Some districts are creating portal systems which are less nuanced that the current methods. Institutions are counting field hours differently and perhaps inequitably. PESB does not dictate the accounting.

Associate Deans and Directors – The group discussed partnering regarding mental health for candidates, faculty, and staff. They are developing a notebook with tabs for professional development and resources. Questions were raised regarding the residency model that is being proposed by OSPI.

Lead Administrators – Discussed the residency model and how we will look to the future of teacher preparation. PESB updates were shared and will be shared in the general meeting as well.

Bob Cooper, WACTE legislative lobbyist reported the following:

The legislature will meet for 105 days and write the budget for the biennium. The session likely will be face to face with virtual testimony allowed. Issues surrounding education include behavioral health, special education, and caseloads.

The OSPI budget ask for the residency program due to cost will probably result in a pilot. The ask includes paying candidates and a variety of other support personnel.

The drop in NAEP scores will probably produce a reaction from the legislators.

A teacher shortage conversation will likely continue as will the conversation on mastery-based learning.

The governor will probably push for universal free school meals across all schools.

Social/emotional learning may see discussion on being added to the basic education requirements.

Please send any questions that you have to Bob. Also share with Bob any data that you have regarding teacher education that you feel would be helpful for him to know.

PESB updates:

Erica Hernandez Scott is holding office hours for EPP’s. Check the website.

The PESB is working to address the challenges for field placements.

The PESB is also looking at social/emotional learning as it relates to adult capacity.

The PESB reviewed the specialty endorsement policy passed in July – Check the website for information.

The PESB is looking at decolonizing education and looking for feedback from the EPP’s in surveys that will be forthcoming. Feedback will be given to the PESB Board in November. Also remember that public comment is vital to the work of the Board and the staff.

Pearson is providing 300 West-B vouchers and 150 West-E vouchers. Only about 1/3 of the vouchers were used in the 2020-21 school year. The legislature continues to ask for data concerning testing costs.

The site reviews for principal and teacher preparation programs will be virtual and the review outline will be coming in 2023. Scheduling will begin in January 2023 and the virtual site reviews will start in fall 2023. The reviews will focus on Domains 2 and 6. The foci will be on high standards, consistency, and accountability.

Program data is to be submitted from September through November 30 in cleaned and accepted formatting.

$2000 educational Interpreter grants are available for district support for interpreters for the deaf to meet the educational interpreter standard.

An update was given on Since Time Immemorial. Programs were encouraged to learn the names of the lands of the native peoples. A committee is available to support EPP’s in working with the tribes and is in the process of developing an electronic newsletter. All tribes are working on a specific curriculum related to their tribe. If you have information that you would like to share, please contact Jennifer Endo or Leiani Sherwin. Educators at all levels should attend training on STI at least every two years. A book titled – Unsettling Settler-Colonial Education was recommended for reading.

The Social Justice Committee of WACTE led by Rachel Oppenheim and Davida Sharpe-Haygood has been working to make WACTE policies more equitable encouraging a more diverse representation of ideas within the organization. All voices should be heard, and policies and protocols are being discussed within the committee to ensure that all have a voice. Thanks was given to all of those who have joined the committee and been receptive to the ideas of all who are members of the group. The group has been meeting every month and attendance has been exemplary. A call will go out again in the spring for additional WACTE members to consider joining. The power point representing the ideas of the members of the Social Justice Committee to date presented prior to breakout sessions will be found on the WACTE website. The breakout sessions discussed the response to the ideas presented in the power point and solicited ideas that the committee will discuss moving forward.

WACTE members were encouraged to attend tomorrow’s meetings on the strategic plan and on the way the WACTE membership sees the organization moving forward as it faces the many challenges facing the EPP’s.

The October 26, 2022, general meeting section was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Straub, recording secretary