

Youngstown State University
Beeghly College of Education
McKay Auditorium
October 25, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

Professional Education Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Leah Brown, Jane Buckingham, Darnelle Clark, Melanie DeBord, Mary Lou DiPillo, Cathy Dorbish, Stacy Graber, Betty Greene, Charles Howell, Chuck Jeffords, Dan Keown, Michael Kerensky, Laura Kollat, Rachael Malizia, Marcia Matanin, Pam McCurdy, Jan Nelson, Anita O'Mellan, Gregg Sturuss, Gary Walker, Amy Williams.

Call to Order

Dr. Matanin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

She announced that a special education teacher from Palacký University, Lucia Pastierikova, is visiting YSU. She's in charge of their version of the Center for Student Progress.

Desa Pavlichich, new Executive Secretary in the Beeghly College of Education's dean's office, was introduced to the members.

Minutes

Mr. Kerensky motioned to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting, as presented, and Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Data Review

Dr. DiPillo referred to the handout showing data on the OAE Foundations of Reading Test. This is a relatively new OAE that has been offered since 2016. This test is required for all early childhood, middle childhood, and special education teacher candidates. Beginning in Fall 2019, all candidates must pass this test BEFORE student teaching.

The data was reviewed in the 4 test domains and for the objectives in each of these domains. The performance of YSU candidates lags slightly behind the state rate. Of greater concern is the 68% pass rate for first-time test takers. We need to improve this rate.

Faculty met with the Chair of the Department of Teacher Education, Dr. Marcia Matanin, and completed a curriculum map for the four reading courses and the test objectives. All faculty are working this semester to ensure candidates have the prerequisite knowledge and academic language to be successful. Many candidates who have taken the test state that phonics is highly emphasized. At the end of finals' week, a review session will be held. Candidates in the final reading course will be encouraged to attend this review and take the test over the holiday break.

One suggestion offered was to see if another university has been more successful, and speak with them about strategies they are implementing. Dean Howell will raise this question with the SUED Deans.

Student Presentation (Palacký University)

Kaeleigh Blough spoke to the group about her experiences during a faculty-led trip to Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic.

Over the summer, 21 students spent four weeks in Europe to study special education. The University is spread out around town. They did a workshop each day (eg. special education, scavenger hunt, visited a school for blind students). They will be pen pals with students in the autism school. The group also travelled to Austria, Slovakia, Poland, Prague and Paris. Kaleigh said she gained self-confidence, independence, and lifelong memories and has developed a sense of adventure. She realized that “education majors can study abroad, too.”

Discussion of Diversity Initiatives

Dr. Matanin referred to the Diversity planning proposal handout.

The BCOE wants to create a strategy and structure to focus on students emerging as culturally competent. She suggested that a committee be formed to focus on the diversity issue.

Discussion followed about identifying awareness of and respect for differences.

The group was asked what made them culturally aware. Some said that they had students from other cultures, religious affiliations, or backgrounds and had decided to broaden their exposure. Another had taken a Culture in Education class where they did field trips to observe differences.

Teachers need to get in touch with their own biases. Parents may be asked what the student’s world is like and teachers can try putting themselves in the student’s shoes. A “Social Justice” program was suggested.

The discussion turned to how to recruit and support a broad range of applicants; and how to get application qualifiers/job descriptions to not disqualify job candidates that may fit.

Charter School

Background of the issue:

Last year Dr. Howell was approached by Judge Theresa Dellick about the possibility of YSU being a sponsor for Mahoning County High School. At that time Dr. Howell investigated and determined sponsorship was beyond the capacity of YSU. Typically the sponsor’s duties of oversight are performed by a 3rd party under contract to the sponsor, and no such group was available in the region.

Now, however, such a group has been found, headed by David Bowlin, Superintendent of Odela School in Akron. Dr. Bowlin would be willing to assist YSU in becoming a sponsor. The

question on the table today is what effect serving as a charter school sponsor would have on YSU's relationship with school districts and teachers' unions in our region.

Considerable discussion ensued, focusing on the following concerns:

1. Some charter schools appear to be overfunded and under-resourced, leading to exploitation of teachers and diversion of public funds. YSU should not be associated with this type of enterprise.
2. Some charter schools, like MCHS, perform a real service to the community, and are often useful to school districts in providing alternative forms of education to students not well served by conventional schools. Teachers and administrator in our region would have no problem with YSU sponsoring these types of schools.
3. Because of HB 70, Youngstown City Schools are vulnerable to being broken up into charter schools, as happened in New Orleans under Katrina. This breakup would be catastrophic for teachers and consequently provoke widespread concern among unions. YSU should not be associated with this type of charter school takeover.
4. Sponsoring existing charter schools should not be a problem, provided they do not fall into category 1 and category 3, and also provided that the scope and limits of YSU's role in charter school sponsorship is widely publicized and understood by teachers, administrators, and unions.
5. To assist in identifying appropriate schools, and publicize the motivation for and scope of YSU's sponsorship, it is proposed that a committee of teachers and educational leaders in the region be formed to advise YSU on its sponsorship activities, and if necessary to publicize the details to defuse any potential hostility.

Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 29, 2018; Thursday, February 21, 2019; and Thursday, April 11, 2019 are the meeting dates that are scheduled for the remainder of the year. All of the meetings will be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in McKay Auditorium.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Desa Pavlichich