

West Genesee / Syracuse University Teaching Center
Directing Council Minutes
February 7, 2022
West Genesee High School LGI
3:45 PM

Board Members:

Teachers Present: Bednarski, Catalino, Ciarla, Finn, Hogan, Hudson, Paoli, Personte, Tyminsky, Uy

Other Members Present: Clark, Kastick, Kimpland, Klefbeck, Leo, Przybylski, Togias

Members Absent: Castaldo, Coonce, Deemer, George, Kupinski

Quorum?: YES (17 of 22 members present. 10 of 17 attendees are Teachers)

Others present (non-voting): Kesel - Director

Chairperson Uy opened the meeting at 3:45.

1. Approval of the December 2021 Minutes – Mrs. Togias motioned for the approval of the December 2021 Directing Council minutes. Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. 2021-2022 Budget - Director Kesel stated that the Early Literacy Teaching Assistants' planning time pay orders are coming in. He also mentioned that one of the approved Collegial Circles has been canceled by the recipients. Governor Hochul has included Teacher Centers at the current level of funding in the executive budget.
3. NYSASCD Webinar Series - We have 29 participants. The series, "Making Curriculum Matter," begins in March.
4. Paraprofessional Academy - The Early Literacy Teaching Assistants' additional planning time was graciously received. The PLCs at Work after school sessions were attended by 47 people. However, Bill Roberge offered to pay the participants from the American Rescue Plan grant.
5. Individual Voucher Pool - Director Kesel led a discussion about expanding the eligibility for the Individual Voucher Pool. There are semesters when vouchers expire because they aren't requested. Director Kesel recommended expanding the pool to include administrators' applications, ONLY after all teacher requests have been fulfilled. He also shared with the Council that the West Genesee, Jamesville Dewitt and Syracuse University have agreed to support persons of color entering the education field through the Baldanza Fellowship. West Genesee will host up to 3 preservice teachers each year for the next three years. He recommends that the voucher pool be made available to the Baldanza fellows at a maximum of one voucher for the Fall and one voucher for the Spring semesters during their preservice time in district. The Council agreed to form a subcommittee to review the Center's bylaws to make these amendments. Mrs. Catalino, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Uy and Brian will submit potential bylaws changes at a subsequent Council meeting.
6. Status of the Director - Brian let the Council know that he intends to retire in August 2023. He recommends the Council search for a new Director to work alongside Brian during the 2022-23 school year. He also recommended that the Director be a teacher. Chairperson Uy also recommended that subsequent budgets reflect stipends for the Director and an administrative assistant. This can be accomplished by offering fewer action research projects and/or collegial circles. The bylaws review team will look to amend the Director criteria and hiring process.
7. Mr. Paoli motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.