

Adirondack Curriculum Project, Inc. Board Meeting
6/1/04
Joan Weill Library, Paul Smiths College

Minutes

Present: Jack Drury, Bob Brown, Sarah Bencze, Wayne Miller, Helen Branigan, Sandy Hildreth, Celia Evans

Vice-President Jack Drury called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Agenda: Adjustments were made to the agenda.

Minutes from March 2, 2004 – Hildreth/Bencze 2nd - Approved unanimously.

Financial Report – no report was available; Sandy H. said she had received a bill from Northnet/Westelcom for web site hosting (approx. \$109) and had submitted it to Sandy B. Wayne said the domain name hosting would soon expire and will also need to be paid. He will look into it.

Web Site Report – Sandy H. said there were essentially no changes to the web site; no new challenges have been received; we receive approximately 4-6 hits/day (correction – upon actually checking, we received 4.4 hits/day for May, which is up from only 2/day for Feb., March and April).

Update on how we are doing with our five priorities

- Regularly scheduled profit-making workshops

Sandy H. reported that the April WSWHE BOCES workshop was apparently cancelled due to lack of registrations. It was speculated that this was due to the way BOCES just sends information out to Superintendents.

The Arts Forever Wild closure workshop is scheduled for July 20-21 at Newcomb School with one night's lodging at Huntington Lodge/ESF facilities. Not all of the teachers are able to attend, so the costs will easily be covered by the \$1500 ACP grant, with money left over.

Due to ACP participation at the Environmental Education event held at the Wawbeek on May 11 (Sandy H. and Sarah attended with ACP display materials), arrangements have been made with FEH BOCES to hold a 2 day teacher workshop at L.P. Quinn Elementary School Library in Tupper Lake on July 22-23. The contract is "in the mail". BOCES will handle all the costs, meals, duplicating; participating teachers will receive stipends and/or in-service credit; ACP should receive about \$500. It is expected that challenges will be developed, typed into template and submitted to ACP at the workshop.

Workshop Committee: Sandy H., Kathy, Sarah, and Jack are prepared to conduct the workshop – other Board members are welcome and we will be contacting resource people and facilitators.

Helen offered to talk to Plattsburgh BOCES (CVES?) about workshops.

- To have at least five challenges – 1 each ACP area for Elem/MS/HS

There will be 19 Art and Music challenges coming this summer from the Arts Forever Wild teachers.

Sandy H. suggested that the Challenge Committee make contact (email, phone, or mail) with all teachers who have participated in past ACP workshops. They could be sent a blank challenge form and asked if they could submit a challenge they have developed for the web site.

Jack will contact Debbie Stout at the Adirondack Teachers Center and Diane Bonenfant in Plattsburgh about the possibility of sponsoring a “challenge write-in” – where teachers would attend a workshop specifically to write and submit challenges, preferably with a peer review.

- To be a presence at regional workshops and events

Sandy H. reported that she purchased (and will donate) materials for a display board, brochure holder, and a large binder and assembled a display, printed out 50 full color brochures, and put printed copies of all our challenges in the binder. Display is available to anyone who wishes to take it to a meeting or conference, or Sandy H. might be available to attend events with it, if given enough prior notice.

Sandy H. and Sarah attended the Environmental Education event at the Wawbeek on May 11. DEC, VIC, Natural History Museum, ESF, ADK, and many other organizations had displays; 50 area teachers attended. Most seemed to have never heard of the ACP; Sandy and Sarah talked to many of them and collected names and emails for a possible summer workshop – they will be sent info about the Tupper Lake Workshop on July 22-23.

- To expand our Web presence

It was suggested that the web site committee send out press releases to promote the ACP and the web site.

We need to contact individuals and organizations that we have links to on the ACP web site and ask them for reciprocal links – so more people can find us.

Sandy H. reported she had discovered the Adirondacks.com web site, with a place where they were partnering/featuring non-profits. She has made contact with them and they will put the ACP on their web site.

More challenges are needed (Challenge Committee will work on this).

- To have a committee structure that includes:

- a Workshop Committee
- a Challenge Committee
- a Web Site Committee
- a Trailways Committee

No committees formally met since the last Board meeting.

There was much discussion about how to get committees working, build excitement, bring in new blood, etc.

- Should we go back to all the original constituents – invite people from all over to a celebratory meeting where we share accomplishments of ACP, provide updates, and cultivate more participation on committees?
- Have a dinner meeting with presentations and updates about ACP?
- Target specific people/groups and bring them together for a meeting to encourage more participation in ACP?
- Bring teachers in and pay them to write challenges?
- Assemble a large group and develop a Strategic Plan?

There was consensus that the existing committees need to meet first and develop plans in accordance with existing ACP goals and mission. Then have a large group meeting and presentation to share ACP accomplishments and with the objective of obtaining more participation on committees.

July 28 was selected for an afternoon meeting – everyone will meet as a group, then break out into Committee groups. This will be scheduled for somewhere at St. Lawrence University because it is during the week of the Constructivist Conference. Jack and Helen will already be there. Sandy will check with Don Mesibov and Jim Shuman about scheduling this. More details will be provided later.

Helen B. and Bob B. expressed a willingness to join both the Workshop and Trailways committees.

A tentative date was suggested for a large group (Annual Meeting?) celebratory meeting – October 28. Celia E. will check on the availability and possible support of Paul Smiths for the use of the Hotel Saranac. Sandy H. will develop a PowerPoint presentation.

Funding – Sandy H. reported that she submitted requests for \$1500 (amount needed to fund 2 day general teacher workshop at Newcomb/Huntington Lodge) to the Pearsall Foundation and Stewarts. Wayne and Sandy H. worked together to submit a request to the Lake Placid Education Association. Nothing has been heard at this time.

Sandy H. also completed and submitted the NYSCA grant that was reported on in the March meeting minutes. \$25,000 was requested to fund “Arts Forever Wild II: Adirondack Visiting Artist Challenge” – if approved, this will allow us to pay stipends to 30 teachers to develop interdisciplinary challenges that will involve a 1-day residency with an artist, performer, or Adirondack expert. The guest will also receive a stipend. Teachers will be invited to submit proposals for challenges and ACP will select 30 to participate. ACP will receive all challenges and examples of student achievement. We should know by the end of July.

Celia described a possible funding opportunity with the Northern Forest Association. She and Sandy H. will develop a prospectus for a multiple day teacher workshop.

Celia and Sandy H. may also still collaborate on another Science related grant to fund ACP teacher workshops.

Old Business – Summer teacher workshops have already been addressed. ACP will be receiving a contract from FEH BOCES to conduct a teacher workshop on July 22-23. The workshop committee will take care of the details.

New Business – Marilyn Broome notified Sandy B. that she was resigning – no other details were known. The Board was deeply concerned about this and Jack will contact Marilyn. It is hoped that she will continue to participate with the ACP.

Wayne talked about the potential of taking advantage of a new school library computer system that is going to be introduced and he will look into it.

Helen reintroduced the need for an Executive Director for the ACP – someone to oversee, advocate, and organize. This will be put on the agenda for the July meeting. It was suggested this could be an opportunity for an administrative intern – Helen will contact Jim Waterson at SLU.

Next Meeting - Tuesday Sept. 14, 2004, **6 PM** in Tupper Lake. Sarah will check on the availability of meeting at the Natural History Museum Offices at Holy Ghost School. The agenda and location will be sent later.

Adjourn – motion to adjourn at 8 pm Hildreth/Brown