
2003 Retreat - Fargo [APPROVED]

- Last Updated (Wednesday, 24 May 2006)

National Conference of Governor's School 2003 Biennial Retreat Fargo, North Dakota Minutes of Proceedings
October 9-11, 2003

The Retreat was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Friday, October 10, 2003 by President Daniel Hocutt in the Peace Garden Room at the North Dakota State University Memorial Union.

It was duly noted that the coffee was much better than that served at the Wingate Inn, our host hotel. Special thanks were extended to Deanne Sperling, Conference Coordinator for NDSU for providing the sticky buns.

Daniel opened our discussion by reflecting on our theme: National Issues and Local Concerns and that our deliberations throughout the Retreat would focus on this theme.

In the first item of business, Bob Seney moved that all participants be given voice and vote on all matters during the Retreat. Second and passed.

Ted Tarkow moved that the minutes of the Business Sessions of the Birmingham Alabama Conference, which had been posted on the web site, be approved. Seconded and passed.

Daniel led an introduction of the participants and reported on members who were not able to attend.

Our first discussion was prompted by Virginia Uldrick as she stated the importance for us to lobby for schools of excellence and to share the impact that governor's schools have on students and learning. We need to have more visibility. The public is not aware of who and what we are.

Don Osman, a former member of the Vermont State Legislature, emphasized the importance of lobbying. The key is to identify what can be agreed upon with legislators and to push those issues. He emphasized that we have a case; we just need to share it.

As another aspect of our growing visibility, Bob Seney, who has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Gifted Children, would represent NCoGS in NAGC. He also reported that he would be planning and hosting the World Conference for Gifted Children in New Orleans in August of 2005. He would ensure that a proposal for a presentation on governor's schools would be accepted and scheduled. It was decided that we would create a discussion panel of NCoGS members.

It was determined that a major agenda item of the Retreat would be to develop concrete plans for visibility and lobbying. It was noted that Jean Olson's Vermont video project might be a good model. She suggested that what we do has enormous power; however, we must ask the question "What is the best avenue for our approach?"

Old Business

- Item One: Delaware has withdrawn their 2004 conference invitation due to change in leadership of the Delaware Governor's School. A request for an invitation was extended.

A discussion of future Conference sites was held. A tentative schedule was created:

- 2004 Conference: Tentatively Pennsylvania's Governor's School for Health Care
- 2005 Retreat: Virginia
- 2006 Conference: Louisiana Governor's School to meet in New Orleans
- 2007 Retreat: Kentucky

Daniel will follow up on this schedule.

- Item Two: The current list of programs was reviewed. At the present time 49 programs representing 23 states are known and posted on our web site. This includes Michigan. We have just been notified that this program will be discontinued.
- Item Three: Mary Daley presented the Treasurer's Report. As of October 1, 2003 there is a balance of \$6662.84. Bob moved to accept. Second and passed.

Chris Campolo moved that Executive Committee expenses for meetings not held during a conference or retreat be paid on an "as needed" basis. This is to be interpreted as according to state programs' budgets and the availability of NCoGS funds. It was noted that this item had been discussed and generally agreed upon, but had not been officially acted upon. Second and passed.

- Item Four: Agenda items to be discussed:

- The proposed video:
- Report on current status. Problem of posting on the web site is the limitation of our current web service. Daniel continues to investigate.
- Question remains – what is the purpose for the video: advocacy, recruitment, or lobbying purposes?
- Don Osman suggested that our plans for visibility should respond to three questions “How do we tell our story How do we tell it right? To whom do we tell it?”
- Letter to Governors: Review the draft letter.
- Alumni survey: Josh Brown will report on Saturday.
- New Director’s Guide: Status not advanced. Will be included in later discussion.
- Newsletter: Monthly issue is not possible. Questions to consider:
 - What is the role of the eNewsletter?
 - What is its purpose (contents)?
 - How often should it be published?
- It was noted that eventually we would like to create an on-line journal with more scholarly articles.

Fifteen Minute Recess

Daniel recalled the Retreat to order and outlined the approach for the next working session. The focus would be on the secondary theme: “NCoGS to the Next Level.” He suggested that perhaps the reason for not knowing the status of some of our on-going efforts is that we lack a clear plan. To that end, he suggested the following approach:

- Create a focus – a plan of action.
- Identify goals to accomplish that plan.
- Identify key personnel to follow through on each action.
- Items for consideration:
 - Advocacy at national, state and local levels.
 - Advocacy: external and internal.
 - The Larger Plan: funding, legislative action, encourage states without programs and encourage re-instate programs.
 - Alignment of governor’s schools to standards and educational reform.
 - Goals:
 - Keep and strengthen governor’s schools that currently exist.
 - Establish new governor’s schools.
 - Maintain vitality of NCoGS.
 - Strategies to be accomplished by January 1, 2004:
 - Finalize the letter to the governors now in draft form.
 - Publish next eNewsletter and include reports from governor’s schools and 2004 session dates.
 - Insure that we have a plan when governors reply to our letter.
 - Write a letter to governors who have schools and commend them.

Special Event

Daniel presented the inaugural “Jim Bray and Lillian Press NCoGS Distinguished Service Award” to Virginia Uldrick for her many years of service to governor’s schools and to NCoGS. She received the award with her customary graciousness. The secretary was instructed to read the proclamation in the minutes. The text follows:

"The Jim Bray and Lillian Press Distinguished Service Award is awarded to Virginia Uldrick on the October, 2003, at the Biennial Retreat of the National Conference of Governor’s Schools in Fargo, Dakota. The Jim Bray and Lillian Press Distinguished Service Award recognizes Virginia’s length and extraordinary efforts on behalf of gifted education, governor’s schools, and the National Conference of Governor’s Schools in local, regional, and national arenas. It is awarded on the occasion of

Recess for Lunch in the Memorial Union Gallery

The Retreat reconvened at 1:00 with announcements and preliminary information on the activity. To guide us in using the facility and process, Josh observed that our conferences focus on internal governor’s schools such as staffing, programs, etc. and that our Retreats focused on external issues. NCoGS as an organization. Special thanks were again offered to Deanne for the wonderful lunch arrangement in the Art Gallery.

The participants moved to the NDSU Group Decision Center to demonstrate the technology use in decision making utilized in the ND Governor’s School. The process will be used to identify issues discussed in later sessions.

The Retreat reconvened at 2:30 for the following items:

- Began our Roll Call of Schools. These reports will be posted on our web site.
 - Define tasks for Saturday sessions.
 - Plan according to the three questions suggested by Don Osman– See above: Old B
- Number 2.
- Identified four work groups to address the four issues identified in GDC to create action plan
 - Advocacy
 - Communication
 - Cooperation
 - Resources and Tools

Recess at 4:30 until Saturday; 6:00 Dinner in the Rose Room NDSU Memorial Union; Tour Saturday, October 11

Daniel reconvened the Retreat at 9:00 a.m. in the Meadowlark Room at the Wingate Inn. H the Saturday work session with the idea of keeping and strengthening existing governor and NCoGS. establishment of new governor’s schools and maintaining a long-term visibility of gov

- Four working areas:
- Advocacy: local, regional, and national.
- Communication: among, between, about, and identifying audience
- Cooperation: among and between governor’s schools.
- Resources and Tools: specify/identify, purpose, advocacy.
- Desired Session Outcomes:
- Action Plans for future endeavors
- Clear and specific.
- Accountable steps.
- Support our purpose and mission.
- Identify specific target audiences.
- Specify timelines and responsibilities.

- Plans should be “Do-able” with our resources and energies.
- Insure that plans are considered necessary by all involved. “To speak with one voice.”
- Our goal is to have tasks completed here as much as possible.
- The following schedule was created:
- 9:00 – 9:15 Review goals and divide into groups.
- 9:15 – 10:15 Group work sessions.
- 10:30 – 11:00 Share progress and identify responses in order of importance.
- 11:00 – 12:00 Assign Tasks.
- Additional Items to be discussed:
- Pennsylvania Governor’s School for Health Care extended an invitation for the 2004 Conference in Pittsburgh. The dates will to be determined based on availability of facilities with a preference for October 7 – 10.
- Plans for next NCoGS eNewsletter if not covered in Communications Group report.
- Request by Jean Olson for ideas for her presentation to a School Board in Vermont on gifted education.
- Sunday 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee meeting is open to all.
- Reporting Session at 10:30: Detailed Reports of each group are available in the President’s Executive Report on the web site.

- Identifying areas of consensus. What is do-able? What is the timeline? What are the outcomes?

- Web site
- Keep and develop as our basic depository of information and records.
- eNewsletter is important – continue and expand.
- Include description of programs with a brief history.
- Publish a chart of dates for each governor’s school.
- Provide contact list for each governor’s school.
- Link each governor’s school web site on the NCoGS web site.
- Public relations person
- Hire a graduate student as a part time PR person?
- Send letters to governors.
- Create a letter writing network.
- Write letters to M.I.A.s (missing former members.)
- Publications
- Information for mentoring and creating governor’s schools.
- Advocacy information.
- New Director Guide.
- Directors’ Report.
- Video.

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- Keep Working Groups as Standing Committees. Josh moved that we do so. Seconded and passed.
 - Investigate the possibility of faculty exchanges.
 - Investigate funding and grant opportunities.
 - Individual Actions
 - Directors 2003 Report by end of November 15.
 - Link local web sites to NCoGS by November 15.
 - Submit program descriptions by December 15.
 - Document submission by December 15 [? – I am not sure what this means.]

Recess for Lunch and Tour at Bonanzaville, a recreation of an historical North Dakota village

Reconvened Work session at 4:35

- Check participants' list for accuracy of information.
- Special presentation of a Krispy Kreme ball cap to Don Osman for his lack of contribution to the local economy by the 'shoppers' of the group.
- Working Groups reports continued.
- Roll call of Governor's Schools continued. All reports are to be submitted to Daniel for inclusion on the web site.

Break for Dinner at the Red Bear at 6:30

Reconvened at 8:30

Final Actions/Discussion

- Each committee was directed to submit a report to Daniel for distribution to membership to include a clear delineation of specific items to be completed with a specific timeline.
- Goals, tasks, and timelines of each committee will be posted on the website.
- Each committee needs to have virtual meetings on a regular basis to continue discussion and for completion of tasks.
- Josh Brown gave a report on the alumni survey. He will continue to refine the instrument and will communicate with the Cooperation Committee. The survey falls under this committee. Comments should be posted on the web site. The draft survey is based upon general social surveys. It includes a set of questions that each governor's school should include on its evaluation form. It is designed for administration at one year out, five years out, and ten years out. The group thanked Josh for his continuing work on the survey.
- Suggested conference themes were
 - 'Brain Storm'
 - Voices
 - Building (or Creating) Community
 - Funding issues
 - Expanding programs
- Daniel will continue to 'wing' the eNewsletter until he gets more direction from the Communication Committee. He requested suggestions for specific content to be included in the next eNewsletter.
- Kudos:
 - To Lonnie Haas for his organization and hard work in hosting our retreat.
 - To Deanne Sperling for all her help and hard work in making our Retreat a success.
 - To all the participants for their enthusiasm and participation.
 - To Fargo from all the shoppers.
 - To Daniel for his leadership and expert facilitation of the Retreat.
 - Chris moved that we adjourn. Second and passed.
- The participants then posed for the official 'Krispy Kreme Hats' photo.

The general agreement was that 'We must keep meeting like this!'

The Retreat was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Seney, Secretary