DECTFL Board Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2015

4:00 at Frederica Pizza and Pasta House

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Gina Travalini-Rubini, Jennifer Short, Julie Finley-O’Connor, Andea LaCombe, Diana Robbins, Tracey Kackley, Holly Schnittger, , Patty Buzby

1. Responsibilities of board members and officers- Please see the online revised copy of the DECTFL Constitution for all changes.
2. Student Contest
   1. Contest will be moved to fall 2015 and submissions will be due winter
   2. Submissions from Spring 2015 cannot be used again
   3. Prompt will remain the same
   4. Prizes will remain the same
3. 2015 Banquet and nominations- Holly Schnittger is going to be Chair of the Banquet committee and will report back her findings at the Summer 2015 Board meeting.
4. DECTFL Scholarships
   1. The Board agreed to have scholarship funds for both teachers and students interested in expanding their education in WL
   2. Teachers must be DECTFL members in order to qualify.
   3. Students must be taught directly by a teacher who is a DECTFL member in order to qualify.
   4. A committee will be formed to organize criteria and money allocations for each category of scholarship awards.
5. Update on student teachers
   1. Diana Robbins researched ACTFL’s stance on the apparent nationwide problem of too-high expectations for student teachers.
   2. Diane presented an ACTFL FAQ sheet which stated “Teachers below the Advanced level of oral proficiency are typically, at best, “textbook teachers” who need the answer key in order to function in the classroom.” Our concern is 1) where did ACTFL get their research, if any, to make such accusations and 2) why was it 90% of the panel commenting on the FAQ were university professors?
   3. The Board decided that the Advocacy Committee would draft letters to both ACTFL and CAEP expressing our growing concern about the expectations of student teachers and the alignment at the university level.
   4. The Board believes that all student teachers should be made aware of the OPI and its expectations so that students can properly prepare for it.
   5. Annette Giesecke is the interim Department Chair of WL at University of Delaware.
      1. University of DE requires students to pass the OPI with at least an Advanced Low proficiency in order to student teach.
      2. There is a shortage of WL teachers throughout the country.
      3. Students that do NOT pass the OPI with those requirements can still teach if they pay for ADDITIONAL courses in the ARTC program (Alternative Routes to Certification) whereas the OPI is not required.
      4. Not all students are made aware of this program and do not graduate with a teaching certificate.
      5. The Board believes this is wrong and students are being charged MORE MONEY to get to the same end point.
   6. The Board is encouraging all DECTFL members as well as WL teachers throughout the Nation to refuse membership to ACTFL until a reasonable alternative can be made.
6. Budget- we have increased the budget by approximately 1/3 since 2014. This will allow for more PD, networking and scholarship opportunities.
7. Increase in membership fees- fees for members/nonmembers will increase beginning in 2016-2017 which is equivalent to organizations in neighboring States
   1. One year= $30
   2. Two years= $50
   3. Three years= $70
8. Member book launch- see attached e-mail
   1. The Board felt it would not be appropriate to endorse a book and/or organization with which we are not familiar.
   2. An e-mail will be sent to this member regarding the findings of the Board.
   3. An e-mail will be sent out to all members encouraging them to support our fellow member and attend this event.
9. Committees (all committees are looking for members to get involved) Please contact the chair of the committee to join.
   1. Advocacy- grants, letter writing to ACTFL, CAEP, Legislators, Politicians, DOE, etc.
      1. Chair: Diana Robbins ([Diana.robbins@capitol.k12.de.us](mailto:Diana.robbins@capitol.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: Jennifer Short
   2. Social Committee- networking events, refreshments, etc.
      1. Chair: Patty Buzby ([patricia.buzby@colonial.k12.de.us](mailto:patricia.buzby@colonial.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: Gina Travalini-Rubini
   3. Annual Banquet- guest speaker, TOY and AOY are announced, dinner
      1. Chair- Holly Schnittger ([Holland.schnittger@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:Holland.schnittger@redclay.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: Andea LaCombe
   4. Teacher of the Year / Advocate of the Year
      1. Chair: Andea LaCombe ([andea.lacombe@ncs.k12.de.us](mailto:andea.lacombe@ncs.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: none
   5. Immersion Weekend
      1. Chair: Gina Travalini-Rubini ([gina.travalini@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:gina.travalini@redclay.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: Tracey Kackley, Julie Finley-O’Connor
   6. Scholarship Fund
      1. Chair: Jennifer Short ([Jennifer.short@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:Jennifer.short@redclay.k12.de.us))
      2. Members: Tracey Kackley