GSU Tripartite Meeting  
September 11, 2009  
Meeting Notes  
8:00-9:30 AM

**Attending:** Wendy Chambers, Bob Lake, Barbara Mallory, Judi Repman, Caren Town, Stephanie Kenney, Pat Parsons, Danny Edenfield, Eileen Bayens, Deborah Thomas, Jeremy Foreman, Karen Doty, Christine Ludowise, Dianne Bath

**Welcome:** Bath welcomed everyone to the first conversation and meeting of the new year.

**Introduction of Members and Guests:** A special welcome to the Tripartite meeting was given to Karen Doty and Christine Ludowise. Everyone took a moment to introduce themselves.

**Reading Discussion:** “Evaluation: Fairness, Injustice, Equity” by Aracelis Perez Castro was the article for discussion. It began with bringing to attention the dismissal of a principal and assistant principal for testing violations bringing the arena of testing to a higher level of concern. The group discussed how to cope with testing and the present inherent pressures placed on teachers, students and schools; how to accept testing as a necessity and incorporate it into a robust curriculum; how to change the perception from a bad thing to one of celebration; what does it say about Georgia SAT scores being down three years in a row; the sense of injustice for special needs students; who has the responsibility for speaking out about testing when there are valid issues. The discussion was lively and ended with all having a responsibility to express concerns to policy makers.

**NNER 2009 Fall Conference:** There will be eight members attending the conference and doing a presentation on *Activating the Tripartite to Steward Public Education*. Wendy Chambers took pictures of our group to be used in the slide presentation and we were thankful to her for doing this. The presentation would be shared with the Tripartite for input. Members were asked to think about what they think is important about the Tripartite so we can be sure to capture that in the presentation.

**High Flying Schools/Youth at Risk Conference:** Again this year members of the Tripartite will be asked to select the schools for the award. Stephanie Kenney had already received one application. The due date is December 1. Bath will send out the rubric to last year’s reviewers for any edits and to solicit from the members anyone who would like to be a reviewer. A subcommittee will be formed to evaluate the applications.

Strength in What Remains is his latest book. He is a prize winning and noted author of nonfiction. We agreed to assist Judi and Bob in whatever way they might need us.

**Hands Across America** – Jeremy Foreman wanted to know how this group could better support the Agenda. He shared some of the projects they already do such as voter registration in high schools, getting students involved in local politics, and service learning. The group shared suggestions such as creating some of the service learning projects around a democracy agenda.

**Local Initiatives Update**

**Portal Partnership** – Bath gave a brief update of the status of the Partnering for Portal group to include: Phase I of the sewage system is well on the way to being installed; presently trying to gain an intergovernmental agreement to support a community center and recreation area; a new school is well on the way; after school tutoring continues in a local church; a park being completed on the west side of town. They are a growing group. There will be a meeting in late September to continue the support for the work. Several members were nominated to be invited to Seattle to represent community partnerships. We will have an update on whether that is moving forward at the September meeting.

**League of Democratic Schools** – Performance Learning Center update was given by Danny Edenfield. There are three focuses for the year: 1) Incorporating student voice through beginning a student government. Deb Sabia (GSU) and students are working with students on how to incorporate students’ voice. They will be working on a mission statement for the PLC. 2) Beginning a media center at the PLC working with Judi Repman (GSU) and her students to develop a virtual library. Danny will be looking for literature for students around the democratic principles. He asked members to share with him any recommendations they might have. 3) The community garden continues but he plans to take it further by adding a potting shed and growing seedlings that can be shared with community members.

**Stilson Elementary School** – Eileen Bayens reported that their focus would be on children’s literature. She wants to provide literature for students around the five freedoms. She has posted a request for suggested readings on the Five Freedoms Website. She asked all members to share their suggestions also.

**Eastern Region Conference 2010** - Both schools would like to carry some students to the meeting in Brea, Kentucky. There is a need for financial support for these expenses. Ideas came forward about silent auctions, contacting some of the fraternities and sororities with democracy focuses for support, contacting the Kiwanis Club. Jeremy Foreman was going to check into the fraternities and sororities and share the ones that might be interested. Any ideas members have, please share them.

**Partner Schools** – Stephanie Kenney and Pat Parsons are going to work with Langston Chapel Elementary School and Langston Chapel Middle School to focus on a democratic agenda. Pat and Dianne are going to work on the COE
goal of developing strong partnerships and have begun by surveying faculty to get a sense of what is happening already and from there what might need to be strengthened.

Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET) Pilot – Bath updated the group on the pilot last spring with five college professors and five high school teachers and the new reading roundtable focused on Why Don’t Students Like School: A Cognitive Scientist Answers Questions About How the Mind Works and What It Means for the Classroom. Members are invited to participate as this pilot moves forward.

**Next Meeting:** November 12, 2009 at 8:00 am. - Sugar Magnolia Bakery