

IMTE Annual Business Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2018

- Mary McMahon welcomed everyone and there were introductions all around.

Introductions:

Astrida Cirulius, past president, teaches at Concordia.

Matt Rosenberg, high school math specialist with CPS

Lilia Nassiri, middle school math specialist with CPS

Todd Oberg, Illinois College

Adam Poetzel, Math and Methods Professor at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Peter Wiles, Eastern Illinois University

Angelique Hamilton, licensed math teacher currently working for ISBE

Tammy Voepel, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Denice Love, Assistant Professor of Elementary and Special Ed., Millikin University

Diana Gallante, Governor's State University

George Reese, U of I

Mary McMahon, North Central, Current ITME President

- Mary inquired if anyone from IMTE, affiliated with AMTE, was interested in going to the national conference. No one expressed interest, but the national organization hoped that we would have a presence. The consensus was that it is good but expensive. Mary will post the powerpoint on Michigan's new chapter and what they're doing.
- Todd presented the minutes from the 2017 NCTM meeting in Chicago. Cathy Kaduk graciously took the minutes and Todd went through and cleaned them up.
 - Adam made a motion to accept; Denice seconded.
- No treasurer's report. Mary will contact Barbara. Barbara will be contacting people about membership dues, if they are due. Membership is \$10/year. Tammy Voepel offered to take the dues to Barbara.
- Officers:
 - Although Barbara was not in attendance, it was suggested that she continue as Treasurer as it's a bit of a hassle to change and she's done a great job.
 - Tammy's term is up and we are needing someone to replace her as the 4-year college/university representative. Diane volunteered for this.
 - Angelique Hamilton volunteered to be the ISBE representative.
 - Adam Poetzel volunteered to be President-elect.
 - Tammy motioned to approve the new officers and Astrida seconded it.

- Mary compiled the agenda based on suggestions from Jackie Murawska and added others to discuss:
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Numbers of open teaching positions in math and science increasing and numbers entering the field are decreasing.
 - Angelique offered to take concerns back to ISBE.
 - Diane said that at Governor's State her students have struggled to get to licensure, predominantly because of the costs. She has had students who have postponed student teaching because they cannot afford the cost of the edTPA. Prep materials for the content test used to be available for free. The only free materials on the ISBE website now are outdated and if you want current prep materials you need to pay a \$30 subscription fee for 6 months. Who's getting this money? Why can't students get a waiver. Background checks are also a cost that can be prohibitive.
 - Astrida mentioned that the climate of the field of education and schools is not welcoming. Other countries have made teaching more appealing by allowing their teachers to be more autonomous.
 - Adam said there's a national narrative that teaching is not an attractive career. In a survey that they gave their education students, they asked if when their students told their friends and family that they were going into teaching, were the reactions positive, negative, or neutral and the majority said it was negative or neutral.
 - In Finland it's harder to get into a teacher education program than into medical school.
 - Mary said that people coming into the state have an easier time getting certified than students training here.
 - Diane mentioned that students are moving out of state to teach as other states have lower retirement ages and higher salaries.
 - Todd said that they've recently launched a new campaign to change the dialogue (He works with teachers who discourage students from going into teaching because of the requirements of entering the profession (ACT/SAT/TAP)). They already have someone in their ED. dept. that works to help students through their test prep/tutoring/etc. Diane said that the SAT is better because the College Board has free Khan Academy prep materials available.
 - TEACH ILLINOIS doesn't deal with money issues and other issues on the ground. The state seems to be suggesting that the problems lie with higher ed., but the problems really lie with getting students in the door. The current proposal "vocalizes" teacher prep. Alternative programs without oversight are being proposed. The legislature is examining the proposals.
 - Diane said that the federal report on teacher shortages states that Illinois only has a teacher shortage in ESL, Special Ed. and Elementary Ed. and not Math and Science. Therefore, students wouldn't be able to apply for scholarships in these areas.
 - Mary suggested that various education groups should pull together to create a larger voice instead of many different small groups trying to voice concern.
 - Astrida said that the edTPA is a major problem and that it's ridiculous to expect a fledgling educator to reflect and perform at the level of a seasoned practitioner.

- The edTPA has taken away $\frac{1}{4}$ of the methods curriculum as they are needing to teach to the test.
- Tammy said that they've had students who have passed the edTPA but failed student teaching and those who have failed the edTPA but passed student teaching, but still can't get licensed.
- Diane said that the edTPA dominates student teaching now and students are exhausted.
- Adam agreed that it is stressful, but he doesn't think that it prevents people from going into the field. Astrida disagreed and said that the word is out and that it is a deterrent.
- Adam also mentioned that the cut-off is going up to 39 this year (from 37 last year) and that next year it will be 41 and then stay at that level.
- Astrida wondered if there were any studies that looked at whether states that had the edTPA had more difficulty recruiting students to the education field.
- Adam said that the edTPA professionalizes teaching, where we were mentioning how the state wants to vocationalize teaching.
- Tammy said that it's difficult that some students really struggle with the edTPA.
- Governor's State awards a provisional license.
- The state will award a provisional license.
- Concordia has started an educational studies program. Complete the degree and get into the classroom and then come back and get licensed.
- Many of the colleges have edTPA release days, when schools are not in session (some even when schools are in session which frustrates schools), when students can work on their edTPA. There are IT people that help students practice shooting video and condensing it, etc.
- Adam asked if colleges have interim deadline dates for different tasks, but most said that they don't. They have suggestions for students to follow to keep a good pace.
- Todd said that they bring cooperating teachers into some of their seminars and have them score old edTPAs and then say why they scored things a certain way. They then look at the way the edTPA was scored and that can be illuminating. The students and cooperating teachers both recognize the value in this process.
- Several folks said that students struggle with answering the prompts completely and reading the rubrics.
- Referencing theory is a problem that many students have, and Governor's State have students begin an annotated bibliography in their first methods course and build it from there and then they're ready.
- There was a discussion about the textbooks people use for methods? Folks used a variety of texts including Taking Action, NCTM Principles to Action, NCTM materials, Jo Boaler's Mathematical Mindset, Reasoning and Sensemaking for all (NCTM), and Van de Walle.
- Concordia has said that they have had success in enrolling more students in math ed. who competed at the Math Contest that they host.
- Middle Grades Math program enrollments – steady? Increasing? Decreasing?
 - There does seem to be more interest overall.

- Colleges and universities are experiencing a variety of interest, sometimes dependent on how their programs are structured. At U of I they need to choose early between secondary and middle and Adam feels that's too early and not ideal. Astrida said that their secondary students need to just take 1-2 extra methods courses, plus the requirements in the School of Ed. At the U of I, Secondary Math Ed. is a minor.
- Stacking: Colleges run elementary, middle, and secondary methods classes at the same time until numbers are up. Adam said that this is ironic considering the state's motivation to honor the uniqueness of middle grades.
- We have 19 pilot districts in the state that are piloting Common Space K-12 education. Trying to figure out differentiated pathways for high school students. This may trickle down to middle grades.
- Competency-based pilot program.
- New Secondary Math Content Test
 - A sample of Mary's students who took both old and new reported that the new one is easier and shorter ("A breath of fresh air."). Todd disagrees. Students are encouraged to use Praxis materials and Khan Academy to prepare. Most of those that have struggled have had difficulty with lower math skills (geometry – circles) as they haven't used them in a long time. Tammy said that those that tutor for the college do better. Using practice problems from old tests helps, complemented with geometry problems.
 - Flash cards are coming!
- ISBE's new Secondary Education Standards – Concerns?
 - Will be comprised of NCTM standards and SEL standards.
 - They are not yet published.
- Governor's State University is on a Teach Out Schedule. They are not accepting new students in Secondary, Special Ed., ... even though they had 145 students in their Special Ed. program at the time that this decision was made. In general, they have high enrollment, so it doesn't seem to make sense why the University has made this decision.
 - The University feels that Teach Illinois is a better model for preparing teachers.
- Writing SPA reports – no time to discuss
- Spring/Summer meeting?
 - Astrida suggested a regional meeting.
 - A summit of math education leaders in the state has also been discussed.
- Meeting was adjourned as we were out of time and attendees had to get to other presentations. Good meeting!