



WINTHROP UNIVERSITY • SCHOOL Partnership Network

Partnership Advisory Council
September 9, 2021 ~ 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Virtual meeting through Zoom:

winthrop-edu.zoom.us/j/81932874367?pwd=YmJJM0dKdWlLamRWOXcrSHINWDZSZz09

I. Welcome and Announcements

- A. Welcome
- B. Introduction of members

II. Update on School Start

- A. How is it going?
 - 1. New teachers last year had maybe 12 students in classroom due to COVID. This year they have 20 something – so classroom management is an issue for them.
 - 2. Observations by university supervisor - State now says this can be virtual. The state prefers face-to-face but this is not always possible given changing pandemic conditions.
 - 3. Full-time intern who also has edTPA coming up. Can we push the full-time teaching back a week so she can complete edTPA? Carolyn G. - Yes.
- B. Talk about COVID protocols
 - 1. Ft. Mill - We must have 10% to go completely virtual, which is a high number. Masks are not mandated and high school sports exacerbate the situation. Quarantined students are beginning to get behind.
 - 2. Some protocols reduced - from 14 day quarantine down to 7.
 - 3. After 3rd case, whole class is sent home to quarantine but no virtual option for elementary - teachers have to use remedial time to work with COVID students. Google classroom. Dual modality (*DM mentioned several times*).
 - 4. In past 2 weeks, ½ our students have been absent due to quarantine/positive tests.
 - 5. Rock Hill - Visitors are limited. Dual Modality. Masks encouraged but not required.
 - 6. Definitely seems like schools are being impacted at a higher rate than last year.
 - 7. Policy for interns who test positive for COVID?
 - a) Carolyn G. - Winthrop's policy is if the student is vaccinated and exposed they do not need to quarantine. If they get COVID, interns need to follow the district's policy. They are to reach out to the school nurse to confirm policy.
 - (1) Internship I - not a lot of time to make up missed days - arrange make up time between other classes.
 - (2) Internship II - 1 week to 10 days before graduation for them to make up missed days.
- C. How are interns doing?
 - 1. There are gaps they wouldn't have if they had experienced Junior Field - lesson planning [*mentioned several times*], accommodations lists, limited feedback last year on lesson plans, etc.

III. Winthrop's Enrollment and Budget Impact

A. Overview

1. Lisa Johnson - Winthrop is a public university which implies we are state supported. But less than 10% of our budget comes from the state (actually only around 7.5%).
2. Winthrop is tuition driven. We tried the last 2 years not to raise tuition but the current trend is that enrollment is down at 4 year colleges/universities.
3. Faculty/staff were furloughed on a scale last year. No furloughs this year but there is a 10% cut in the Rex Institute's operating budget - other departments have larger cuts.
4. The current reimbursement for Host Teacher, Mentor Teacher, and Liaison isn't much but multiply these by 51 and it adds up.
5. We are having to discuss pretty significant budget changes/models while trying not to increase tuition. Not expecting changes this year but over the next 3 years we'll have to change some things. We will keep you informed of discussions and decisions.
6. There is no charge for being a member of the partnership. We consider the partnership to be beneficial to Winthrop and the partner schools.
7. We'll also explore how other universities reimburse their liaisons and host and mentor teachers.

IV. Partnership Annual Reflection Conversations

A. [Data](#) & Discussion—*comments from video discussion and meeting chat:*

- Differentiation - gaps are getting wider.
- We are taking as much off teachers' plates as possible.
- Burn out rate is high.
- Optional PD for recertification hours has been helpful for us.
- While PD itself might be a push at this point, we talked about supporting mentors by creating in-house mentors of mentors. Basically developing networks among mentors so that those more experienced are coaching those newer to the role. Liaisons may have some level of responsibility for this, but can't do it all--especially not now.
 - Great point! I have utilized former mentors to help a lot {3 others said they really liked this idea}
- Renewal credits for teachers are huge right now - especially virtually!
- Read to Succeed!! Yes!
- Free classes for Mentor teachers would be great, especially for those going through renewal cycles.
- Recruiting, acclimation, professional development goals.
- Classroom management, instruction, 38 Rules & Procedures, acclimating interns, teachers do not want to give interns a lot of work
- Elementary School (grades 4-6) that change classes
- Can't get teachers to do field - they're just overwhelmed - dual/modality.
- "I'm not in the classroom [administration] so I don't want to push too hard - I'm at a very rural school - few behavior problems - I think interns would love it. If we want good teachers, we need Winthrop interns. Maybe from the principal, "We want you to be a leader. We want you to be a part of this partnership."
- Teachers are not ready for Professional Development. There is a lot going on - already so many mandates - overcoming COVID achievement gap.

- Could we help with Dual Modality environment - do best practices exist? Not sure we can provide help. Teachers are just doing it. Not time to learn how to do it great.
 - Request to be paid for Dual Modality.
 - It's not humanly possible to do both.
 - Looking at Dual Modality and support through funding. Look at different ways to do DM - we could always have the video on but this brings in some privacy concerns - we don't know who at home may be watching.
 - It can be done. My daughter's teacher handled it well but it was super hard for her to manage. My older child's teacher tried it a different way but it didn't work as well.
- Getting Tier 1 and Tier 2 at the same time as Tier 3 within the school day is a big challenge. We're trying to provide training on how to do this for each grade level.
- MTSS professional development - All the special education students were pulled out.
- We want them to learn all the standards but do we have to let some go? Seniors in high school may go to college and some may not - what do we need for them to walk across the stage?
- Recruiting Mentors
 - Possible perks for working with the Partnership - free classes, classes for mentor teachers only, access to the West Center/Dacus library, opportunities for credits, etc.
 - Maybe Winthrop could offer a free course (instead of reduced tuition) after so many years of being a Mentor Teacher? This would add a long-term incentive for recruitment.

B. Feedback on streamlined [annual reflection](#)

1. Several groups reported they like the shorter reflection form better than the longer one used in the past.
2. Questions we want to measure as a Partnership and modify the report each year?
3. We considered perhaps there's a need for 1 additional item: What skill or other aspect of preparation was noticed as a common area for improvement among interns?

V. Updates

- A. Jessie Williams Little Award nominations due 10/15/2021– [link to nominations](#)
- B. Newsletter ideas? Fall and spring editions (send ideas to Bettie Parsons)
- C. [Partnership Network brochures](#)
- D. Banners - WU and school split replacement banner cost – approx. \$60 each
 1. Let us know if you need a new one or don't have one.
- E. Winthrop Teaching Fellows students - Cannot go into the schools this semester. They have community service they need to complete for their scholarships. Could they work virtually with some of your students - reading, tutoring, etc.? Email Dr. Fuller at teachingfellows@winthrop.edu
 1. Maybe that's a way to deal with teachers needing time for small groups. A Teaching Fellow could take a group so the teacher could focus on students with more needs

VI. Adjournment

Next Virtual Meeting Date: October 21, 2021

(see website for future dates, agendas, and minutes <http://www2.winthrop.edu/rex/rex/council.html>)