Teacher Education Advisory Board
Meeting Notes

April 4, 2017
4:15 p.m.
Keane Hall Porch

In attendance:

Abby Erner       TJ Potts       Donna Shaw
Rebecca Fabricius David Salyer   Liz Weber
Libby Kluesner   Scott Scheuerell Hilarie Welsh
Kevin Kuske

Discussion and Informational Items:

Welcome and Introductions
Following a brief period of socializing, Dr. David Salyer welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. In anticipation of today’s meeting Board members were asked to bring an electronic device through which they would be able to view the agenda and pertinent meeting documents on the Weebly site created for the Board by Dr. Salyer. (http://lorasteachereducation.weebly.com/)

Student Presentations
As an introduction to the presentations, Dr. Hilarie Welsh provided a brief explanation of the Loras Legacy Symposium and shared copies of last year’s program. She also extended an open invitation for Board members to attend this year’s event on Wednesday, May 3.

Emily Pollpeter provided an overview of her project, The Use of Digital and Nondigital Resources in Developing Language and Literacy Skills in English Language Learners. Emily was able to work with a 2nd grade Marshallese student from Fulton last spring. Her project focused on having her student create a story which began with a discussion and advanced to building sentences. Emily utilized an iPad and the Rainbow Sentences app and also used nondigital resources. At the project’s end Emily’s student was presented with a printed book containing the story created during their work together.

Paige Bildstein, Jillian Pohland, Nicole Snitkey, and Mikhayla Kruse-Meek provided an overview of their Jterm 2017 experience in Multicultural Education. Their presentation was titled Creating a Community in a Diverse Classroom through Cultural Relevancy: A Look at Multicultural Education. This group of sophomores visited 3 Dubuque schools (Fulton Elementary, Montessori, and Washington Middle School) and 7 schools in Sarasota, Florida. The Jterm class focused on creating a community in the classroom which involved bridging home experiences with the classroom and implementing culture into the curriculum. Through this course the students became inspired to be better teachers and shared with the Board two strategies gained from the experience: morning meetings & reflective journals.

Iowa’s College and Career Ready Students and the Loras Teacher Education Program
David Salyer shared information from Director Wise’s presentation at last month’s IACTE meeting. Iowa’s definition for college and career readiness can be found here.
Questions for Board members: As educators, what do you expect when our Loras Teacher Education students spend time in your schools? Do you have any suggestions for additional topics we should include in their education?

Responses:

- TJ Potts - the field of education changes so quickly. Exposure is more important than the subject matter taught. New graduates need to be able to successfully navigate their way through.
- Libby Kluesner – it’s important that classroom students understand they won’t need the knowledge being learned every day of their lives. Encourage them to persevere and to learn to do hard things. Libby suggested new teachers pair with another educator, sharing reflections and bouncing ideas off each other.
- TJ Potts – critique yourself. Watch yourself in the classroom. Open your classroom to others and invite their feedback. Educators are becoming more scientific about documenting their physical placement in the classroom.
- Kevin Kuske – Professional Development begins when you are hired. As new teachers, you bring valuable knowledge to the table. Collaboration is important to the school, so be prepared to be both leaders & followers, givers & takers.
- Abby Erner – be open & have the courage to try. Special Education involves a lot of paperwork. Be prepared for that reality. IEP regulations constantly change, so managing paperwork can become a balancing act.
- TJ Potts – In order to be able to teach children you must also deal with adults (parents, paraprofessionals, etc.). Communicating with adults requires a different skill set, and is vital to teamwork.
- Libby Kluesner – spend time role playing conflict resolution.
- Liz Weber – build community with other educators. We work hard to build community in the classroom and we also need to support each other.
- Abby Erner – your paraprofessional might be the age of your parents. Without good communication and strong relationships your classroom management will suffer.
- Donna Shaw – students in EDU 221 (Learning Environments & Collaborations) spend time discussing conflict with parents. Important message for them to hear.
- Hilarie Welsh – good ideas to include in EDU 490, Capstone Seminar/Portfolio (role playing, community building).

In closing, Dr. Salyer thanked all for attending.

Meeting ended at 5:31 p.m.