

TEUPAC – SUNY Buffalo State
Minutes: Tuesday, July 20, 2021
10:00 am
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Margaret Aldrich, Rosemary Arioli, Emmett Baggett, Shannon Budin, Pixita del Prado Hill, Tiffany Fuzak, Selenid Gonzalez-Frey, Julie Henry, Jodelle Magner, Selenid Frey, Emmett Baggett, Chris Shively, Julie Henry, Fran Paskowitz, Angela Patti, Antigone Peek, Raquel Schmidt, Chris Shively, Mary Wolf, Kathy Wood

I. Welcome and Initial Business

A. Introductions in the Chat (name, role, and organization)

Pixita del Prado – (PdP) (Director, Professional Development Schools Consortium)
Rosemary Arioli (RA) (Director of Student Teaching, EELEL)
Angela Patti (AP) (SUNY Buffalo State, Faculty in Exceptional Education Department)
Tiffany Fuzak (TF) (CAEP)
Shannon Budin (SB) (CAEP)
Kathy Wood (KW) (School of Education Associate Dean, Buffalo State)
Mary Wolf (MW) (Art Ed Assistant Professor of Art Education, Buffalo State)
Emmett Baggett (EB) (PDS Student Rep - Art Education Buffalo State College)
Selenid Frey (SF) (Faculty, EELEL Buffalo State, PDS Partner: Niagara Charter)
Margaret Aldrich (MA) (Principal, Harris Hill Elementary School, Clarence District)
Antigone Peek (A Peek) (Principal, Buffalo Creek Academy)
Fran Paskowitz (FP) (Educational Leadership, Interim Principal, KenTon Schools)
Chris Shively (CS) (Faculty, EELEL Buffalo State)
Julie Henry (JH) (Chair, EELEL Buffalo State)
Jodelle Magner (JM) (Faculty, Mathematics Department, Buffalo State)
Raquel Schmidt (RS) (Faculty, Exceptional Education, Buffalo State)

II. New Business

A. SUNY buffalo State PDS Annual Report At-a-Glance, 2020-21 has been distributed.

B. Upcoming Events

150th Anniversary of Buffalo State: A flyer was designed by Tamara Horstman-Riphahn, which includes a list of events hosted by PDS such as Bengal Teachers Reunion, PDS Annual Conference, All Hands On Deck Professional Development and more. [The School of Education website](https://schoolofeducation.buffalostate.edu/) (<https://schoolofeducation.buffalostate.edu/>) features slides highlighting these events. Or, visit <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/> for details and registration.

C. PDS Conference: September 24, 2021

The conference will be hybrid (Campbell Student Union + the Whova platform).

D. All Hands On Deck Initiative for 2021-2022

This is a fully online initiative centered leveraging the resources of the Buffalo State PDS and its campus and school partners to support the needs of local educational communities at a unique time in education. This summer, that includes preparing for the return of in-person instruction in P-12 schools. Summer 2021 professional development will be sustained by conversations in the fall. For more information about All Hands on Deck: <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/professional-development-pds-partners>

E. Discussion 1 (comments have been paraphrased and abbreviated)

Topic: Wendy Paterson requested information about the districts' policies concerning vaccines and teachers and student teachers. She also requested any information about whether district superintendents will be empowered to make vaccination mandatory for their faculty. Until such time as the FDA approves at least one of the vaccines fully (not emergency only), SUNY will not

be enacting a student mandate. Our teacher education programs cannot require teacher candidates to be vaccinated if Buffalo State College does not. Please share your feelings on this topic.

KW: The vaccine is not mandated yet and, at this point, if it were to be mandated now, we wouldn't be able to get everyone vaccinated by the start of school.

MA: We have a new superintendent starting and mask policies are still within the District's purview. And, of course, we look to the Department of Health for guidance. For our summer school program, masks are required only for bus transportation. We were able to not mandate masks while in camp with several protocols such as spending most of the time outside. We are in conversations now regarding mask policies for the fall. Vaccinations are not in question because our students are younger. For faculty and staff, if they are not vaccinated, they must wear masks. We have not required documentation to prove vaccination yet.

APeek: It is likely that students and staff will still need to wear masks. There is no mandate to be vaccinated, but it is encouraged.

FP: There has been no discussion of vaccines and there is still a mask mandate. It would not be easy or quick to mandate vaccinations. My personal opinion is that we should encourage it, but there is no way to mandate it. It is too political. Also, children can't be vaccinated, so for their safety, it would be wise to maintain the mask mandate.

Angela Patti: Is there a chance districts would not want teacher candidates at their schools since Buffalo State cannot require our students to be vaccinated?

FP: My school does not allow parents in the building, so I'm not sure if they would make that decision. However, they probably would not ban student teachers. Partner schools want them to feel welcome, so it's not that type of environment yet.

APeek: My school had social worker interns in the school, however these particular students were from schools that mandated the vaccine for students.

MA: We will work with educator preparation programs and student teachers to be consistent with policies of district. As long as they can follow the district and Department of Health guidelines, there will be no problem.

RA: We placed some in-person student teachers last semester. Our teacher candidates follow the protocol of the school they are in and we have had no issues. We have a large number of teacher candidates this fall.

PdP: We are also thinking about Methods students.

SF: I teach preservice teachers this fall. If the schools are open and the school requires teachers to be vaccinated, will they assume the teacher candidates are vaccinated? Should I have Plan B?

PdP: Are we allowed to ask students if they are vaccinated?

KW: I do not think we can ask but we should confirm with Wendy. Weigel has some guidelines.

FP: If the school says teachers are required to be vaccinated, Buffalo State may have to send the preservice students somewhere else.

JH: It is a good idea to list these questions in the minutes. It can help getting them answered.

How do we document all this? How can we accommodate all students? There are online portals to upload documentation.

KW: Online portals are optional.

RA: So far, we have not heard from districts that they will mandate that student teachers be vaccinated.

From Molly Marcinelli (Principal, Como Park Elementary – was not able to attend the meeting but sent an email with the following information.)

At this point, there is no mandate for staff or students to be vaccinated. We are anxiously awaiting regs. from the NYSDOH on rules for September. During the summer, if you are fully vaccinated you do not have to wear a mask, but I am unsure about September. Also, I strongly encourage vaccination because our students are not even eligible for vaccination yet, so they are

all susceptible to the virus. I do not want to quarantine little kids if I do not have to. I hope colleges/universities strongly encourage vaccination.

F. Discussion 2 (comments have been paraphrased and abbreviated)

Topic: Concerns about school reopening and teacher shortages

MA: Our school is close-to-normal this summer. We have instituted some unique and innovative policies that seem to be exciting students about curriculum, even with all the distractions. We had to be very focused and to get rid of a lot of extras while keeping the curriculum engaging.

Due to a teacher shortage, we had to hire some teachers (for summer) who were not fully certified, some from charter schools, and some veteran teachers. In a very short time, they have become a team. These types of innovations and changes are examples of the positive experiences we can take from the pandemic. It is important not to lose those conversations. It is also important to continue to engage with teacher candidates. They are our lifeblood.

JH: High-five to Peg for creating an engaging curriculum, keeping kids smiling while learning, collaborating, and finding joy.

MA: It's all about teamwork and collaboration. We have great people coordinating.

FP: Our school would have opened summer programs to more students if we had more staff.

Teachers had a rough year and some who would normally work in the summer, took the summer off.

PdP: I had not thought about summer school. Maybe we should work with the Career Development Center and promote summer school options in the coming years.

MA: I am glad you mentioned that. We hired the two Buffalo State students that we had as teacher candidates and they are in the summer school. Summer school, for us, is run on grants for the next two summers. It is a great idea to think about teacher candidates starting in summer school.

PdP: I will talk to Denise Harris in the Career Development Center.

RA: TESOL classes run in the summer, so we have some teacher candidates starting in the summer program and they will loop into a fall placement in the same school. We can think creatively with principals about how our students can support schools in the summer.

JH: This is a good thing to remember when we reach out to schools for partnership. We might offer a ready workforce for the summer and then the teacher candidates are ready to move into the student teaching positions in the fall.

III. CAEP

- A. SB: The self-study has been submitted to our accreditor, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). They will be reviewing it this fall and coming to visit us on campus in Spring 2022. So, we need all-hands-on-deck to help and participate in that process. This usually takes the form of small focus groups about your experiences with us. Save the date: March 13-15, 2022 – We may need a half an hour or something like that from our former students, partners, and faculty.

One of our assessment processes includes feedback from students, supervisors, and mentors (360 Surveys). Of course, our biggest focus is on the evaluation of our candidates by the mentor and supervisor. In looking at summary data from the past few semesters, we have seen that the mentor teachers' scores of candidates are consistently slightly higher than those of the supervisors. We would like your input on why this might be happening and also how we can solicit feedback from mentor teachers regarding the instrument itself.

PdP: It may be due to the fact that the mentor teacher sees the candidate much more often.

RA: We can share the data at the supervisors' meeting. We can also utilize the Master Teacher Program's professional learning community of mentors.

JH: There may be a socio-emotional factor where mentors resist scoring candidates negatively in order to keep the working relationship pleasant.

MA: There are nuances surrounding surveys that require explicit communication and assurances of confidentiality.

FP: I'm satisfied that the mentor scores are higher. It might be concerning if the supervisors' scores were higher.

AP: You might want to ask the mentors for evaluations in different forums, i.e., a case study.

Also, to test reliability, you may want to compare scores within roles, not across roles. Finally, it might not be a good idea to try to change scoring behaviors.

TF: We are having difficulty getting the evaluation links to the mentor teachers. The emails often go to Junk Folders or are blocked by school. Are there any suggestions or insights about this issue?

Suggestions: Ask mentors and supervisors what to do, ask the Teacher Candidates to remind the mentors to look for the email, have the field experience office or the supervisors send the links.

IV. Introduction of Emmet Baggett

Emmett is being mentored by Mary Wolf, Art Education at Buffalo State.

V. Adjournment

Next meeting of TEUPAC: **Friday October 15 at 3:00 pm (Zoom)**