

Kentucky World Language Association

Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2021

Zoom Meeting

J. Rouhier-Willoughby called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

1. The current Executive Board members present were J. Rouhier-Willoughby, L. Roché Youngworth, J. Hoban, S. Merideth, and M. Sexton

The current members of the Full Board and ex-officio members present were Alfonso de Torres Núñez (Awards Chair), Andrea Fieler (AATG), C. Martin (AATSP), Jen Kennedy (Communications), Jill Susini (AATF), Lydia Kohler (Showcase Chair), Wei Jiang, Brenna Byrd (post-secondary representative), Hubert Schroer (SESC), Koji Tanno (KAJLT), L. Junker (KCA)

2. Minutes - C. Martin moved to approve the minutes. B. Byrd seconded. Motion passed.

3. Vacant Positions Updated

Ohio Valley and Kentucky Valley are still vacant. Please reach out to J. Rouhier-Willoughby if you are interested or have candidates

4. Showcase Report: L. Kohler

L. Kohler reported that the event had 60 students participate in the 2021 Virtual Showcase and virtually all of them, due to the variety of projects and various proficiency levels, received an award for their projects. The ones that did not receive an award did not get their project link in on time.

She did not request reimbursement for ink, cardstock or postage, so there was no overhead cost for the event this year. At \$7/student, this should equal \$420 of profit for KWLA as payments come in. The organization tends to break even on this event. In a regular year, the charge is \$12/student. However, there are also normal costs to feed judges, buy ribbons/folders/office supplies, and pay for the AAPPL exam (listening and reading portions).

Notes:

Have teacher registration include student project links every year and give a late March deadline when possible. Having college folks grade projects prior to the Showcase was a great thing that should happen every year. When the day of Showcase started, all project winners were already decided and ready to announce.

M. Griffitt, who made the project rubric, has been asked to make adjustments before 2022. Each category needs to be separated (some are grouped together) and the individual writing score column must be accessed by every judge.

In the future, consideration should be made for having an online option for those far away. The in-person model would also still be offered, but the interviews and culture/language sessions online work well. This year was really tough for collecting money from students. People in the far corners of the state would be easier to include. There could be judges and session presenters that are specifically assigned to do Zoom sessions.

The committee needs to discuss in further detail how projects should look in this digital format. It was a change made out of necessity, but will continue out of convenience.

The wording in the Guidelines needs to be updated.

L. Kohler expressed her appreciation for the Board's support of the event and looks forward to 2022.

5. PD Report: J. Rouhier-Willoughby / J. Kennedy

KWLA has had two PD opportunities so far. Elena Kamenetzky presented virtually and had about 18 live participants. The link is now available for members on the KWLA website and will be emailed again.

The second opportunity is the training from Avant Assessment. The board knows of at least 23 participants so far.

J. Rouhier-Willoughby asks for any ideas for future PD. J. Kennedy has suggested continuing the Spring Workshop to become an annual tradition. L. Roché-Youngworth suggests focusing the 2022 Spring Workshop on the newly released standards.

6. Treasurer Report & Gravitt Fund Update: S. Merideth

The checking account currently holds \$20996.64 . All invoices for showcase and spring workshop have been sent. She apologizes for late notice of showcase invoices. She would like showcase registration to be moved to JotForm as well to streamline communication between board members. Another benefit of using JotForm for showcase would be the ability to upload files with the registration.

The checkbook has arrived to S. Merideth. She will begin keeping a reconciliation report into software that can be adapted to an Excel file for future transactions.

The Gravitt Fund has not met since schools returned to in-person. S. Merideth has contacted the committee for availability. J. Kennedy will psh information to social media soon. L. Roché-Youngworth asks what the timeline looks like. S. Merideth says the goal

is to have all information available by the end of the fiscal year. The 2021 conference will include a moment of silence as well as a note in the conference program, and there will likely be an in-person memorial coordinated by the family in mid-August.

7. 2021 Conference: J. Rouhier-Willoughby / J. Hoban

KWLA sent an informal poll about having an in-person vs virtual conference. Kentucky school districts had not yet revised guidelines about employee travel and conference attendance, and our affiliate regional groups as well as ACTFL have chosen to hold virtual conferences.

The Campbell House asked for documentation on school policies for employee travel, and J. Rouhier-Willoughby and L. Roché-Youngworth provided documentation from both UK and FCPS, which allowed us to cancel the contract without penalty. KWLA will use The Campbell House in 2022.

Therefore, the conference will be virtual. This allows for flexibility of both travel and timing.

- Schedule and Timing

J. Hoban thinks our Saturday should remain all sessions. As to workshops, the committee can choose to do them a variety of days before and after the main event. One option is considering having the opening session on Friday evening. J. Kennedy suggests reviewing the NECTFL conference schedule, which has 3pm and 6pm workshops available several weekdays before and after the main conference. The board would have to decide registration and pricing structure for workshops. Workshops are not an option on the current session proposal.

- Workshops: Lenses for Looking at the Standards

Elena Kamenetzky will do a workshop, but the topic is currently unknown. Possibly “Looking at the Standards through a Proficiency Lens”

L. Roché-Youngworth will also do a workshop on Seal of Biliteracy. The board and website will be able to provide continued resources for that as well.

M. Sexton suggests bringing in Stacey Johnson and LJ Randolph to look at the standards through a social justice lens.

KWLA would also want to have at least two workshops on standards, one introducing the standards and one on applying them.

Scheduling: Workshops could take place Wed 6-9, Thurs 6-9, Fri 4-7, with awards and trivia following, Saturday having the opening session and normal session lengths, and Sunday 1-3 and 4-7.

- Keynote

A. de Torres Núñez recommends Dr. José Medina to talk about culturally responsive teaching. He is very popular on social media. KWLA could also pair him with students from the state, such as Cody Smith. J. Hoban would very much like to have lots of student input in this conference. After looking at Medina's website, it seems he may not have an option that aligns with our theme and goals. M. Sexton suggests J. Saldaña-Whyte as a more affordable option for a similar lens on social justice. It would also help support her as SCOLT TOY. S. Merideth says KWLA paid between \$2000-\$4000 for a keynote and workshops

L. Roché-Youngworth suggests inviting the commissioner. He is new to Kentucky, so hearing his voice on World Languages would be incredible. This also better aligns with our conference theme of standards as well as our work with Seal of Biliteracy. J. Hoban says even if he does not keynote the session, he would be a valuable source at some point during the opening.

J. Hoban brings up the fact that KWLA has money in the bank and very low overhead this year. Additionally, the organization will not have to pay transportation fees. Having speakers and presenters with big names may result in more participants.

L. Junker suggests adjusting the theme may be more valuable than having big names.

B. Byrd suggests former ACTFL TOY Ying Jin, whose specialties include standards, planning, etc. (which align more clearly with this year's conference theme). She also does workshops on the growth of Chinese programs.

S. Merideth also suggests Dorie CP to reach more elementary teachers.

J. Hoban will reach out to Ying Jin for the keynote, and Jenniffer Saldaña Whyte for a session.

- Other Events

Student panels: J. Hoban thinks it's essential to include students as much as possible this year. KWLA could include a session, a roundtable during the opening session, and/or a pre-recorded short video.

Trivia: This event will continue.

Immersion Dinners & Affiliate Meetings: The program can combine these and move them to be a little later to meet the needs of our Western Kentucky members.

- *Price:*

J. Hoban thinks the price should increase somewhat from last year, from \$30 last year to \$50-\$60 this year, with workshops being an extra charge. L. Junker suggests having an “all-access pass” that includes all the workshops so participants have more flexibility. M. Sexton counters that workshop presenters often prefer to have concrete numbers for planning purposes. The group decides that workshops should have a 50 person cap.

The group settles on \$60 for the conference which includes the cost of a workshop on standards, and \$85 for an all-access pass.

8. New Business

- ACTFL: J. Rouhier-Willoughby

There are nominations available for professional awards. The board positions for K-12 at large, Higher Education at large, and President-Elect are also all open.

Suggestions from the group include Tracy Rucker, Georgie Medina, and Stace.

- Support for future teachers: J. Rouhier-Willoughby & A. de Torres Núñez

A. de Torres Núñez has been collaborating with Laura McGee to develop a program to provide support to current high students who are interested in becoming world language teachers through creating a mentorship program primarily with retired teachers.

- Awards: A. de Torres Núñez

The call for nominations has been completed, and J. Kennedy has updated the website. The AAT presidents have received information on awards. The link for nominations does need to be updated on the website. The Kentucky Teacher newsletter has already posted an announcement.

The biggest change in awards this year is the split in Amici Linguarum award into a recipient from the education field and one from outside education

J. Rouhier-Willoughby asked for an update on having a teacher of the month award. In January, the board discussed having such an award in place by the end of the spring. Due to the rapidly changing formats for teaching this semester, this recognition has been put on hold until the fall.

- Advocacy: J. Rouhier-Willoughby

i. Commissioner's Listening Tour

Many members attended, and the commissioner did discuss global competency regularly. The KWLA position was highly present.

ii. CTE

J. Rouhier-Willoughby and L. Roché-Youngworth met with the CTE rep from Fayette County to open those doors in order to move forward with plans in the fall.

iii. Seal of Biliteracy: L. Roché-Youngworth

J. Rouhier-Willoughby will work with the chambers of commerce beginning this summer to get them on board with support for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Per L. Roché-Youngworth, the state has uploaded guidelines for the Seal. The national association reached out, and Kentucky has been updated to "under consideration" status and will be moved to "Approved State Seal" whenever the organization requests. KWLA can include this as an event in the conference. All members need to make a big deal about this. The Seal is a more attainable goal for world language programs than the AP test. Career Pathways will have a negative impact on language programs, and the Seal of Biliteracy becomes the unofficial pathway goal until languages achieve recognition. L. Roché-Youngworth will be providing support sessions on how to implement the Seal of Biliteracy for KWLA members. in its first year of a school's program. She also asks to be emailed ideas for how to increase PR around the Seal.

A. de Torres Núñez contributes that creating a career pathway toward translators and interpreters will help (and he is already advocating at the state level for this), but if individual teachers can find ways to insert world languages into existing pathways, that would be ideal.

H. Schroer will be collecting data from regional reps: What districts offer the seal? How many total students have received the seal to date? How many students receive the seal annually?

Schroer motions to adjourn. J. Hoban seconds. Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.