

*Partnership for Community Learning Centers*  
**Design Team Meeting**  
**October 20, 2003**

Present: Lori Ragsdale, Sandra Bland, Phyllis Childs, Joel Siebentritt, Jenny Penney Oliver, Mary Kelly, Madeline Van Dyke, Lewis Holloway, Bob Bluett, guest speaker Marcus Fechheimer, Janet Martin, Cindy Brown (new member – welcome!), Janie Voss, JoBeth Allen, José Jose' Boza, Jackie Saindon, Phyllis Stewart, Alexa Darby, Donna Butler, and Tad McMillan

1. Marcus Fechheimer (cell biologist, UGA) – As part of the Deans' Forum (the College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences), Marcus has developed a course (BIOL 4940) that includes an internship for junior/senior undergraduates in CCSD. A similar program is already in place at Barnett Shoals Elementary and students (both CCSD and UGA) are learning very exciting things; there is a TA on-site who would work at Gaines and/or Chase as well to coordinate schedules, observe, etc. Marcus is asking if Chase and Gaines teachers are interested in having interns working with our students. Interns will receive an initial orientation, be paired with an experienced elementary school teacher, and spend 3 hours/week in the classroom planning/delivering lessons collaboratively with teachers. Marcus read some of the application emails, and the students sounded dedicated, enthusiastic, and ready to serve in the schools. He also shared feedback from some of the Barnett Shoals teachers who believe this collaboration is extremely valuable and helpful. There are 15 students, so there could be 7 or 8 at each school if both want to be involved. Pairing the right intern with interested teachers will be important. Marcus will talk with faculty at Chase on Wednesday, and with Gaines (TBA).
2. We previewed the CCSD/UGA/Athens community Partnership for Community Learning Centers website at <http://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/ccsduga/>. You can access this from the CCSD website. It is very comprehensive, including the calendar, members of various action teams, resources (e.g., articles on Professional Development, School Reform, etc.). We encourage everyone in CCSD to use this resource. The Superintendent will send out information to the whole district announcing this resource.
3. Discussion of extended year calendar (José Jose' and the Superintendent led a discussion about the calendar, severe funding cuts, and the potential impact of "order" of schools that need improvement).
  - a. For schools receiving Title I funds, the amount is dependant on number of students, free and reduced lunch, and school choice
  - b. Proposed ranking of Title I schools for 2004-5: Fowler, Fourth, Coile, Chase, Gaines, Oglethorpe, Winterville, Alps and Whitehead (highest poverty rate first). All of these schools have a 75% poverty rate that

qualifies them for Title I funds, if sufficient funds are available. Higher ranked schools must receive more than lower ranked schools.

- c. Chase and Gaines were higher for this year; Coile was at the bottom. Now Coile, with 603 students, is ranked above our schools – Hillsman has not been a Title I school. At the current funding distribution, moving Coile up so that Coile would get the same amount per pupil as Fowler and Fourth (which they must have), we would have a shortfall of Title I funds of about \$1.5 million.
- d. We would not be able to fund the additional 15 days with Title I funds. We would have to look at additional funding sources; right now we are not seeing where this money would come from.
- e. **Items for discussion** – can we maintain the balanced calendar without the 15 additional days? Can we look at the whole district moving to a balanced calendar? The district calendar is already out, but the Superintendent said that might be changed. He suggested we look at a 45/15 calendar for the following year.
- f. What happens to intersession? (CCSD pays transportation and food and some salary support – less than \$17,000 budgeted for this year). Would we continue to have Intersession? Would it's focus be different?
- g. What is the value of the extended year balanced calendar? If we determine that this is valuable, could we apply for a grant? We don't have any way to separate the impact of the 15 additional days from all the other aspects of the reform the schools have implemented (e.g., curriculum reform).
- h. Is the district saying there isn't any way to fund the additional 15 days? The Superintendent said they still have to cut over \$3 million from the CCSD budget, so they will not be likely to contribute to the partnership.
- i. Together, the schools have about \$600,000 in Title I money (about \$1500 per student).
- j. Student attendance is also an issue the Superintendent raised: the standard is that 85% of population must attend 165 days or more; even with the 15 days our schools barely met that. It wasn't the last 15 days, it was through out the year.
- k. The Superintendent said that the calendar is the most distinguishing feature, especially to the public, of the partnership. He thinks we want to maintain some kind of balanced calendar.
- l. Is it all or nothing, or could we add 5 or 10 days? The research didn't support these shorter times.
- m. Could we maintain the year-round calendar and the Intersessions (which are providing an additional 2 weeks of instruction to all students who participate)? Barbara Duke has told the principals that intersession would have to be remedial. Would teachers provide the remediation or paraprofessionals and subs and students who are currently staffing intersession? EIP money could fund teachers during intersession, there is 20 day instructional money, there are lots of possibilities according to José.
- n. Phyllis S – the bottom line is she doesn't want to lose any faculty.

- o. Cindy B suggested a model she had been involved with in another district where the progression was very successful in a magnet school.
  - p. Lori and others - The Calendar Committee did a great deal of research to develop the current extended year-round calendar, and they were told not to worry about the money. Teachers signed contracts; some left. Now the talk seems to be that we'll just do away with it. Could it be funded in part by Title I and in part by a grant? Could we take a longer view – the 5 years that we were promised when we started the partnership?
  - q. What about the Reading First grant? It is for six years, about \$187,000 per year; it could be very helpful to our schools if what they are asking for meshes with the direction we've been going. It seems to mesh pretty well with what has been started at Gaines, less so with Chase. It might pay for some things that Title I is currently paying.
  - r. What do we take back to our schools? We need to look at what we can do to maintain the balanced calendar. It sounds like there is little hope for the additional 15 days.
4. Phyllis and Bob reported that Intersession went very smoothly. We had good coverage in the ABH. The organizers surveyed the students about which facility they liked better. The adults thought being away from the schools was a big advantage.
5. Four Professional Development Associates have been hired to split their time between Chase and Gaines; they seem very strong. Three will be starting next week by observing in the classes in which they will be teaching while the teachers engage in professional development, including looking closely at student work, two times a month. The PDAs are hired 3/4 time (9-3) so they will be in the classrooms for a good part of the morning before the teacher leaves at 11:30 to provide continuity throughout the day (they will also get the teacher's lesson plans for the weeks they will be working). All have college degrees. Fowler, Fourth and our two schools are all using this model.
6. Is anyone able to go to the PDK conference in St. Louis in November 20-23? We have a presentation we need to give – ANYONE??
7. Bob, Phyllis C, Jenny and Donna Butler talked with Athens First Bank about support for the Family Resource Center hut renovation, and they pledged at least \$5,000. They are also including the school on its list of charities patrons can contribute to.

8. The Nuts and Bolts team will meet with Dean Castenell and Superintendent Holloway on November 10 at 3:00. If you have items you would like included in that conversation please contact Jose' Boza.
9. The next meeting Design Team meeting is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM in the Instructional Services conference room at the CCSD.