

Partnership for Community Learning Centers
DESIGN TEAM
Summary Notes for November 15, 2004

Executive Summary:

Montage viewing

Review and reflection from the Partnership retreat held on November 1, 2004

Calendar update

Statement created to be read at the public forums on the calendar

Letter drafted to the superintendent that includes the above mentioned statement

Intersession update

Partnership in the news

Our next meeting is January, 2004, 3:30 PM Chamber of Commerce

Present: Jenny Penney Oliver, JoBeth Allen, Phyllis Stewart, Jose Boza, Phyllis Childs, Paul Sims, Janet Martin, Alexa Darby, Janie Voss, Barbara Benson, Chester Sosebee, Pam Paisley, Don Carver, Lori Ragsdale, Roy Rowe, Dawn Mixon, Sharon Gillespie and Bridget Williams

Guest: Janna Dresden

.....

We began with a **welcome from JoBeth Allen** and another **viewing** of the Partnership video **montage**. Thanks again go to Paul Sims for capturing our past 3 years in 17 minutes!

And then a **review of today's agenda**:

Partnership for Community Learning Centers
Design Team Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2004
Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Welcome

On our agenda today:

- Partnership MONTAGE -- *thank you* Paul Sims
- Planning for the Education Summit -- *what's up, Tim Johnson?*
- Review and reflection of the Re-visioning Retreat

Nuts and Bolts will be studying the evaluation and thinking about what the evaluations say and how shall we use the evaluation information ... do you have thoughts about this to discuss now?

The *Nuts and Bolts* are proposing that we substitute our December Design Team meeting (12/13/04; 3:30) for an evaluation working session – all are welcome but the N&B’s will surely be there. Reactions?

- Calendar – how can we support the Partnership schools as they think about their calendar?
What do we know: Retreat comments; public information meetings for district calendar discussion tonight and tomorrow night; Intersession survey; etc.
- Update on Intersession Sharon, Phyllis, Roy
* let’s begin to consider a new name for Intersession ... hmmm
- The *Partnership in the News—WOW!*
- Announcements, updates

Summary of meeting:

Review and Reflection of the Re-visioning Retreat

A copy of the retreat evaluation had been shared with all Design Team members prior to the meeting. The summary was very informative and we expressed appreciation to Bridget Williams for pulling this information together. The overall review and reflection on the retreat was very positive. Specific comments included:

- Retreat was at the right time, “Timing was excellent”. Teachers had come off two-week break and were rested and ready. The planners, facilitators, teachers were able to communicate between the two schools
- “As a UGA faculty member, I was glad that I attended because I learned from every session I attended and found it helpful to meet the school’s teachers. I gained a sense of things going on and how I can assist from my discipline.” She mentioned an educational conference (Education Trust) and recommended that someone from the Design Team should be present next year to discuss the partnership because this work is far ahead of most of what she has seen at that conference.
- Impressed with facilitation skills in sessions and excitement of the participants.
- From the evaluation it shows that many people think we should do a retreat annually, and there were lots of suggestions for topics!
- Brains didn’t quit and people kept working throughout the day! People are continuing to look forward to the future. Everyone continuing to work hard.
- Surprised by high number of teachers saying that we need to get on balanced calendar as a school system.

The Nuts and Bolts team will be charged with taking a careful look at the evaluations from the retreat and looking at how we can use this information in future Partnership planning, at the schools specifically, etc. They will work closely with the Evaluation Committee on this as well. Therefore, the recommendation is that we cancel the December Design Team meeting and have Nuts and Bolts team meeting that day instead

(December 13, 3:30). Everyone agreed! JoBeth offered her home for this work session and encouraged anyone on the DT who wanted to attend to do so and/or send their ideas and comments about the evaluation information out on our listserv.

Calendar

The DT discussed the proposals coming out from the district and the fact that there is not a balanced calendar proposal among the recommendations. They also discussed the recent newspaper articles and attendance at a PTO meeting at another elementary school. From the various conversations people have been involved in it seems that district folks are raising good questions -- many similar to the ones we raised 4 years ago -- which there are answers to but these answers have not been searched out or provided. Disappointment was expressed that the Design Team and Partnership schools have not been sought out for more help and information about their use of the calendar by the district calendar committee. Further disappointment was expressed about what seems to be not much time devoted to really studying balanced calendars, etc. like the Partnership Calendar Action Team did prior to recommending adoption of such. The question was raised as to whether the Partnership schools would be allowed to have a balanced calendar if the remainder of the district did not. While no one could definitely answer the question, the sense from those who heard the Superintendent address the group at the retreat was that he was supportive and appreciative of the balanced calendar being used in the Partnership schools.

Finally the question came to: So what do Chase and Gaines need and want to do regarding the calendar?

Recommendations followed:

- Confirm with colleagues that Chase and Gaines do support remaining on a balanced calendar next year. Though the survey from the retreat indicated high support for this, just further confirm.
- Recommend to the Superintendent that an Action Team similar to the one used by the Partnership 4 years ago be immediately established to study balanced calendars. This team's work would be distinctly different from the work of the calendar committee in that their goal would not be to recommend a specific calendar.
- Further, ask that the district only adopt a calendar for 1 rather than 2 years to allow time for the Action Team to study and make recommendations.
- Prepare a statement to be presented at the 2 public forums scheduled for November 15 and 16 on the position of the Partnership regarding their support of a balanced calendar.
- Encourage the Superintendent to allow other district schools interested in a balanced calendar to pilot the calendar along with Chase and Gaines for 2005-2006.

There was agreement, support and encouragement to proceed with all of the recommendations made and a sub-committee agreed to remain after the meeting today to compose the statement to be delivered at the Forums and to begin a draft of the letter.

Update on Intersession:

Sharon, Phyllis and Roy shared that Intersession was great and the kids seemed to have a great time. There were 101 kids registered for the two week Intersession this fall. They were very tired by the end of the two weeks and the staff was glad to have the last Friday off! Sharon passed around a few of the children's evaluations that asked about their favorite activity, what they learned and what they were looking forward to at the next Intersession.

We began our brainstorming for Intersession to get a new name: Gaines Gaining, School Day Camp—the conversation needs to continue!

Roy Rowe expressed that he felt Intersession was carefully planned, well organized, well implemented, staff was flexible and took time to reflect back every day after the kids left. He asked three kids at his school what their favorite thing was about Intersession: UGA students and new friends were their answers. We discussed that we believed registration was needed at schools through Family Resource Centers which will be discussed in the Intersession debriefing session on 11/18. The Design Team requested a report on the Intersession meeting at the next Design Team meeting.

The first day back after Intersession each home room teacher asked their students about what they did during their break. This was prompted by our interest in knowing what kinds of experiences children were having during break, as well as by our interest in being able to document that many children were not being left alone as had been expressed by some as a reason not to have a balanced calendar. The summary of that survey follows:

Student Intersession Survey Fall, 2004

Chase Community Learning Center

1.	I attended intersession at Thomas Lay Park.	49 Students	17.1%
2.	I stayed at home with an adult.	136 Students	47.5%
3.	I was with my grandparents or aunt/uncle.	45 Students	15.7%
4.	I went on a trip out of town.	25 Students	8.7%
5.	I stayed at home alone.	12 Students	4.1%
6.	I went to day-care (Tiny tots, etc.)	9 Students	3.1%
7.	Other	10 Students	3.4%

Gaines Community Learning Center

1.	I stayed at home with an adult.	195 Students	45.8%
2.	I stayed with grandparents/aunt/uncle.	104 Students	24.4%
3.	I went on a trip.	61 Students	14.3%
4.	I was home alone. **	12 Students	2.8%
5.	I went to Intersession.	31 Students	7.3%
6.	I went to Day Care.	7 Students	1.6%
7.	Other	15 Students	3.5%

Home Alone (Gaines) **

PreK – 0	1 st – 2	3 RD – 0	5 TH - 4
K – 0	2 nd – 2	4 TH - 4	

Partnership in the News

The Partnership has been in the news lately and those involved were thanked for their comments and involvement with the media.

Meeting adjourned with a reminder that the December meeting will be specifically for Nuts and Bolts to work on the evaluation data but all are welcome!

THANK YOU SHARON GILLESPIE FOR TAKING OUR SUMMARY NOTES!