

***Partnership for Community Learning Centers***  
**Design Team Meeting**  
**Summary Notes for November 21, 2005**  
***Athens Area Chamber of Commerce***

**Present:**

JoBeth Allen, Jose Boza, Sandra Bland, Don Carver, Melody Gordon, Lori Ragsdale, William Rodney Harrison, Suzanne Kennedy, Monica Knight, Amy McElveen, Jenny Penney Oliver, Bridget Robbins, Connie Sorrow, Phyllis Stewart, Janie Voss, and Laura Workman.

Jennifer E. Aaron - guest

**Executive Summary:**

- We are pleased to welcome new Design Team members from Chase and Gaines.
- Representatives from the Partnership Expansion Team met with the district leadership to announce the open invitation to all schools to apply to join the Partnership for Community Learning Centers.
- Discussion of the Partnership Improvement Plans and focus areas for 2005-2006.
- Chase and Gaines updates
- We will not host a December Design Team meeting. We will meet next on January 23, 2006.
- Everyone is invited to attend the “ *Continuing the enrichment of intersession*” meeting on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Chamber of Commerce
- Gaines Elementary has been named a 2005 Distinguished School.

Our agenda for the meeting:

***Partnership for Community Learning Centers***  
**DESIGN TEAM AGENDA**  
**November 21, 2005**

*Thank you, E.J., for taking the summary notes last month.*

*Thank you, Bridget, for taking them this month!*

On our agenda today:

- Do we need any reintroductions and/or re-acquaintances?
- Welcome new Design Team members!

From Chase:     *Melody Gordon*  
                          *Rodney Harrison*

From Gaines:     Laura Workman  
  *LANCE*

**BROOKS**

Amy McElveen  
Connie Sorrow

- DISCUSSION of the Partnership Improvement Plans

## Focus Areas for 2005-2006

Overarching focus: Continue to increase student achievement

1. Study and expand family and school partnerships to support student learning
  2. Study service learning and applied learning to identify how they can enhance student learning
  3. Create a plan for continuing student enrichment/Intersession within the traditional calendar structure
  4. Expansion of the Partnership
- Continuing discussion and update on the Partnership expansion plans and process
  - Updates from Chase and Gaines
  - Design Team member update
  - December Design Team meeting?
  - Announcements, updates, things to brag about or ponder...
1. 11/29 Noon: “Continuing the enrichment of Intersession without a balanced calendar” meeting. Everyone welcome!
  2. ????

### ➤ *New design team members were introduced and welcomed!*

#### **From Chase Street:**

Melody Gordon, paraprofessional  
Rodney Harris, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher  
Amy McElveen, media specialist  
Connie Sorrow, paraprofessional

#### **Gaines:**

Laura Workman 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher  
Lance Brooks- Gaines parent

### ➤ *Discussion of Partnership Improvement Plan*

- We received input from people after introducing the plan at the last Design Team meeting and modifications were made.
- Jose Boza again provided the context for the how and why this document was created and stated that the plan reflected the main and ongoing goal of the Partnership which is to increase students' achievement at these schools.
- The Design Team will be invited and encouraged to participate in implementing the plan as noted in the plan, as well as in other aspects not noted.
- Questions were raised with regard to # C of the plan, to “create a plan for continuing student enrichment intersession within the traditional calendar

structure.” This generated a very rich conversation and brainstorm about ways we may be able to maintain the enrichment begun with the Intersession partnership. Jenny Oliver will summarize those ideas and share them at the upcoming meeting of the Intersession Committee, and others, planned for November 29 at noon at the Chamber of Commerce. Everyone is welcome to attend. Athens Leisure Services and the UGA Recreation and Leisure Services folks are very committed to staying engaged.

➤ **Update on the Partnership expansion plans**

- Monica Knight recapped our recent meeting with the CCSD leadership to announce the expansion of the Partnership as follows:

The superintendent recognized the increased academic achievement at Chase and Gaines Elementary schools and then opened the floor to JoBeth Allen who gave an overview of the partnerships framework and the fact that we are hoping other schools will join this movement as it's not just a school issue, it is a community issue. Monica summarized the guidelines for applying to be a partnership school and the timelines and expectations. The Expansion Committee is available to meet with schools and help with their application. Monica expressed our pleasure over the high level of engagement after the presentation when clarification and ideas were discussed. The deadline for applications is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Chase and Gaines will go through a separate recommitment process in conjunction with the School Improvement Planning process.

➤ **Updates from Chase and Gaines**

- Jennifer Aaron -3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Chase gave an update of an initiative stemming from Chase: Jennifer, a doctoral student and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Chase, described a research and service learning effort she has begun with her students that is being supported by several teachers at Chase. Based on interviews with the Mayor and Commissioners, the students have identified service projects they want to be involved in Athens-Clarke County. As a result, students will be making bowls and having a soup dinner in March to raise money and awareness to support some of the initiatives related to the elderly living in public housing.
- Jennifer Aaron also reported on the ‘virtual’ academic service learning interest group she is organizing of the participants from Chase, Gaines and Whit Davis who together attended the recent Service Learning conference in Atlanta.
- Mrs. Stewart updated us on the many wonderful things taking place at Gaines. First, Gaines has been named a Distinguished School. She talked about the store operated and run by the students at Gaines, a project in which students collected money for the Hurricane Katrina Victims, the recent success of the family fun night week, the PTO organized Fall Festival on November 5<sup>th</sup>, their popular GED classes, and, the Lowe’s grant/ landscape plan they are applying for. She acknowledged the hard work of her staff and especially the work of Sandra Bland, family resource/engagement specialist, for getting the parents involved.

- A question was raised as to whether either school would be applying for a service learning grant, and when was the deadline? Neither school knew if a grant was underway, and Monica Knight volunteered to learn the details of the grant and get the information out.

➤ **December Design Team Meeting?**

We decided not to host a Design Team meeting in December since no one could identify any critical or time sensitive items to be addressed. Therefore, the next meeting will be January 23, 2006.

➤ **Announcements, updates, things to brag about or ponder....**

- Gaines has been named a 2005 Distinguished School
- Phyllis Childs has communicated to us that after thoughtful consideration, she has decided she needs to resign from the Design Team.
- The meeting on “Continuing the enrichment of Intersession w/o a balanced calendar” will be on November 29 at noon at the Chamber of Commerce. Everyone welcome!

**Next meeting January 28, 2006 at 3pm Chamber of Commerce**

*Meeting adjourned at 4:30*