

Partnership for Community Learning Centers

DESIGN TEAM

Summary Notes for August 16, 2004

Executive Summary:

Re-acquaintances and Introductions- Sharon Gillespie and Bridget Williams are two graduate students from UGA who will be working from the partnership. In particular Sharon will work on intersession and Bridget will work in the schools, but both look forward in being involved in the variety of activities associated with the Partnership! Jenny and JoBeth would like the schools to discuss how these two students can help in the schools.

Updates and profiles from Partnership Schools -

Gaines School has 411 students and 5 new faculty members. They also have a new part-time math coach. The new school is on track, but they don't know the opening date. PDA's start date is August 30. The GED program is up and running and will be opened to community once Gaines slots are filled. In addition, Gaines School changed to a Positive Discipline Approach, and has expanded their Math Coach to fulltime.

Chase has 295 students this year, which is higher than last year. They have 4 new faculty members and a staff member who is a bilingual family liaison. Chase is again using looping, has been able to hire a part-time Math Coach. A focus for Chase this year will be to examine children's work as a way to see the results of their professional development.

Partnership Re-visioning Retreat - There will be a partnership retreat on November 1st at First Baptist Church. The Nuts and Bolts team envisioned an evaluation strand, a sharing of instruction strand and looking to the future strand. The design team members recommended looking at ways to involve the UGA graduate students in schools, the needs of children in poverty, the instructional sharing time in strands and the way to share information with the principals in the district.

Design Team Focus for the year - Two foci of the design team this year will be looking at the pros and cons of a balanced calendar and family resource. The district is exploring the use of a balanced calendar district wide and so the design team hopes to be able to share with the district. In addition, a teacher recommended working with UGA to teach graduate classes at the Gaines and Chase.

Our next meeting is September 20, 2004, 3:30 PM Chamber of Commerce

Present: Jose Boza, Phyllis Childs, Sharon Gillespie, Tricia Reeves, Pam Paisley, Don Carver, JoBeth Allen, Jackie Sandon, Tim Johnson, Phyllis Stewart, Paul Sims, Lori Ragsdale, Dawn Teston, Bridget Williams, Roy Rowe, Barbara Benson, Janie Voss, Alexa Darby, Cindy Mitchell, Madeline Van Dyck, and Jenny Penney Oliver

We began with a welcome back from Jenny who asked the Design Team members to introduce themselves. After the introductions, we proceeded with the agenda:

Partnership for Community Learning Centers
Design Team meeting
August 16, 2004
First meeting of year 3 ()

Note taker: _____ (*volunteer, please!*)

AGENDA:

Welcome Back!

Re-acquaintances and Introductions

- UGA Graduate Students Bridget Williams and Sharon Gillespie

Updates and profiles from Partnership Schools

- Chase Street – Roy Rowe
- Gaines – Phyllis Stewart

Partnership Re-visioning Retreat

- ✓ November 1, 2004 – Athens First Baptist Church
- ✓ How should we spend the day?

Design Team focus for the year ...

- ❖ What are the topics you want to spend time on? *Tackle?*
- ❖ Priorities?

Updates/Announcements:

- ✓ Design Team
 - New representatives? *Schools? Community? UGA?*
 - Ginger Davis Beck and Mary Kelly stepping off
 - Joel Siebentritt & family off today for Virginia as a school SW!
 - Jackie Saindon stepping out for Fall only! BOE substitute?
- ✓ Gentlemen on the Move – Orientation/Information meeting Saturday, August 21, 9:00 AM, Aderhold Hall. Families and their children welcome.
- ✓ Art Education at Chase in the fall and to work with Gaines on their Arts Festival in the Spring

- ✓ Dean Castenell back at work today!
- ✓ Future Design Team meeting dates: 8/16; 9/20; 10/11; 11/15; 12/13; 1/24; 2/28; 3/21; 4/18; 5/16
- ✓ Story in *Athens Parent Magazine*, August, 2004
- ✓ FOCUS project
- ✓ Other ...

Re-acquaintances and Introductions

After the brief introductions Jenny shared that Donna Butler is no longer with college. To support some of the work she helped us with, the Dean decided to fund two graduate students. The two new graduate students are masters' students Sharon Gillespie from UGA Recreation and Leisure Studies and Bridget Williams from UGA Educational Administration and Policy. Sharon will work with intersession most specifically. She can be contacted at sharonp@uga.edu. Bridget comes to UGA from being a 3rd grade teacher in Atlanta Public Schools and she will be working in the schools and as a liaison from UGA to the schools. Bridget's contact is bridgetwilliams50@msn.com. Jenny asked the schools to think about how the graduate students can help at Gaines and Chase.

Updates and profiles from Partnership Schools

Phyllis Stewart started with the Gaines update. She told the group that they have 411 students, with the diversity of students largely the same as last year. Gaines is excited about the new additions to their staff. They have 5 new faculty members: 2 special education interrelated certified teachers; 1 new fourth grade teacher; 1 new gifted teacher; 1 new international faculty teacher fifth grade. Phyllis mentioned that they started the Principal's book of the month effort with a book named Big Momma. The new school is on schedule, but Phyllis does not know the exact date the school will be ready. The PDA's are starting on August 30. A full-time math coach works with Gaines teachers and students. In the past Gaines had the Georgia READS grant to fund the literacy coach, however this year they do not have the grant, but they are still able to fund the positions. Once the Gaines GED slots are filled they will open the slots up to the community. Gaines revised their discipline approach to Positive Discipline which teachers say works well with the students.

Roy Rowe shared that Chase's enrollment increased from 273 students last year to 295 students this school year. He shared the changes in school demographics with the 52% African American and 44% Hispanic, a slight increase in percentages from last year. Like other schools in the district, Chase is currently looking at their attendance policies. Roy thanked the design team for their efforts in advocating for a half-time Assistant Principal. Adam Kirk is Chase's new assistant principal. Chase maintained their literacy coach and hired a half time math coach. In addition, they have 4 new faculty and bilingual liaison: 2 kindergarten; 2 third grade; 1 bilingual family liaison. Roy mentioned

that this year they are emphasizing student work to see results of the professional development.

Partnership Re-visioning Retreat

The Nuts and Bolts team discussed having another retreat. In the planning for the retreat the Nuts and Bolts team asked the design team for suggestions on how to ignite the vision of the partnership. The retreat will be on November 1, 2004 at the First Baptist Church. Parking will be at St. Josephs Church and half of First Baptist The entire parking lot of Bottle Works and some parts of the parking lot of First Baptist are no longer available. They suggest that people carpool.

Turning the discussion to the content and format of the retreat, the Nuts and Bolts team asked the Design Team to think of some goals for the retreat. Nuts and Bolts team have thought about 3 phases for the day: 1) an evaluation component looking at where are we and what we know 2) an “Instructional Fair” component where we engage in cross teaching and sharing what we are doing – perhaps organized around strands, and 3) a look at the future for the Partnership, with consideration of us trying to produce some “lessons” we could share. Other suggestions from the Design Team included:

- How to involve graduate students from UGA Counseling and Social Work programs in the schools and how to use projects and information generated by these students in their classes to benefit the Partnership and district schools, e.g. Counseling students were asked to develop expansive projects related to attendance, for example, and we need to use this information practically.
- Re-focus on who our children are -- Focus on the needs of children who come from poverty. Gaines and Chase have a number of homeless children.
 - Interfaith Network of Athens was developed to help with the homeless children in Athens. September 11 will be the training date and volunteers will work with children by tutoring, monitoring over night stays, meals etc. To qualify for this program, families must be homeless and have at least one child. The families will stay at two local churches overnight and during the day the families will be housed at one of the churches. The families will be able to stay at one school because their proof of residence will be the church.
- Instructional sharing time- Two schools share what has worked for them in terms of instruction. A member of the design team recommended this be organized in strands rather than grade levels.
- Session for Principals

Design Team Focus for the year

The Design Team was asked to brainstorm what topics they want to “tackle” this year. After discussion it was decided that at least 2 of their foci should be the balanced calendar and family resource centers. The district is exploring a balanced calendar for all schools and so the Design Team believes they can help with presentations and ease some of the concerns, based on their experiences in researching and experiencing this process.

The Design Team discussed areas the district needs to think about in changing calendars (i.e. Athens Leisure service availability). In addition the Design Team will look at the current family resource centers at Chase and Gaines. One of the teacher recommended looking at ways to work with the university to teach courses at Chase and/or Gaines.

Announcements and future agendas

It's amazing and humbling how many folks continue to stay committed to the Design Team. This year we are adding 2 Chase teachers (Dawn Teston and Barbara Benson). There may be additional Gaines members as well. It was suggested that we ask Commissioners to be involved. In particular David Lynn and Elton Dodson's names were mentioned, and Jenny was asked to follow up and talk with them.

Jackie Saindon is teaching a Monday course throughout the semester and will not be able to attend our regular meetings this semester. Dr. Saindon offered, and the Design Team agreed that it would be good to have a substitute from the Board of Education for this semester.

Just some of the UGA involvement continuing:

Gentlemen on the Move – Orientation/Information meeting set for Saturday, August 21, 9:00 AM, Aderhold Hall. Families and their children welcome.

Art Education at Chase in the fall and to work with Gaines on their Arts Festival in the Spring

Gaines and Chase will again benefit from the FOCUS (Fostering Our Community's Understanding of Science) project with 12 UGA placements at Chase and 17 at Gaines!

Project FUND (Finding Unity in our Diversity) headed by Misha Cahmann is again working at Chase. This year teachers will be able to pursue an ESOL endorsement with that project.

The Partnership has benefited from several excellent news stories recently. A very positive story on our use of the balanced calendar is in *Athens Parent Magazine*, August, 2004.

Future Design Team meeting dates: 8/16; 9/20; 10/11; 11/15; 12/13; 1/24; 2/28; 3/21; 4/18; 5/16.

Thank you Alexa Darby for taking notes!