

Partnership for Community Learning Centers

Design Team Minutes

May 17, 2004

Present: Roy Rowe, Jenny Oliver, Lori Ragsdale, Tim Johnson, Janet Martin, Janie Voss, Jackie Saindon, Ginger Jewell, Don Carver, Phyllis Childs, Sandra Bland, Jose' Boza, Tad MacMillan, Oscar Cardenas

Guests: Shana Babkin, Paola Szthan, Dorothy White, Keri Valentine, Alisa DeMao

Agenda:

Partnership for Community Learning Centers
DESIGN TEAM Meeting Agenda
May 17, 2004

Welcome and Greetings

On the agenda:

- Presentation from our Mathematics Education partners on the work at Chase and Gaines in math
- Updates:
 - Video
 - Intersession
 - Partnership Summit
 - Other ... ??
- News from Chase
- News from Gaines
- Let's eat cake!

A fond farewell to our friend, Bob Bluett

and

a warm welcome to our friend, Roy Rowe

- Jenny began the meeting by asking for updates from our math partners:

Gaines: Shana told us she was _ time Gaines and _ time at Whitehead. Next year she will be full time at Gaines. The approach at Gaines is one of in class coaching, someone to come in and demonstrate lessons. Gaines took their schedules and put her in classrooms all day long. At Whitehead she works with a group of teachers. Shana feels she has been more effective with the scheduling at Gaines. The scores were low and are going up.

Process: She meets with a teacher before she goes into the room and asks what concept they are working on in their class and what needs the teacher has. She offers suggestions and models different approaches. Examples:

- Upper grades establish work stations instead of doing whole group work.
- They had a successful “econo” fair which taught basic money concepts. She is looking at slow and incremental growth over a period of years as the watchword for the work done this year. .
- Work with the professional development team will focus on problem solving in the upcoming year.

Jackie asked a specific question about ESOL students and how they are being handled. Shana stated the problem is not math knowledge but rather the translation issue. This is an example of really listening to children and then seeing what they know before moving into instruction. Phyllis discussed how important it is to have parents in the classrooms to watch instruction. She also mentioned the Spanish text resources given by the Mexican Consulate which she has used to help families. They are checked out by families. Peer tutors have also proven to be an effective strategy for non native speakers. Shana judges by the enthusiasm and excitement which math inspires. Shana will be full time next year.

Chase: Goal at Chase was to develop a place where mathematics could be discussed and taught. This was primarily an approach based on professional development rather than coaching within the classroom. A handout which delineated features of the project was distributed. Highlights:

- Every year there has been a math leadership team which determined the direction for the school with this year’s focus being sustainability and provision of staff development for peers
- Increased number of math resources
- Development has been during the school day, not an add-on to an already heavy day with subs part of the grant(PDA’s provide consistency for children)
- Added benefit was conference participation
- Daily data and curriculum nights became part of the school routine-headsets are available for people needing an interpreter (they are actually United Nations devices)
- Great resources(www.nctm.org/reflections) are being used that need to be shared

Tim asked how these ideas to share and what the costs are. Paola stressed that there are costs and we do need to provide professional development time.

Jose' shared the idea of banking time currently in use at CMS and the resources in PRISM.

Ginger talked about the curriculum renewal process and how constant updating is part of that process. She also talked about the district website for both math and curriculum.

- Intercession was a success even though it was done without the usual cohort of UGA students because the date conflicted with the UGA exam schedule. One Art Education class was very involved and the faculty member used their products from intercession as their final exam.

- Tim: There is no update on the partnership summit but there was a festival based on community services that drew 1200 parents and guardians and interested others to the Edwards Building. There will be a follow-up meeting of a community group about Latino/African-American relations in the schools on Friday May 28th at Edwards. Youth Conference will be held in July at Central.

- Update on Chase: In process of interviewing for several new positions. Just finished ITBS. A former Chase student passed away this weekend and it was a real testimony to the sense of family that exists at Chase. The funeral is Thursday. Bob's party is on Sunday June 6th from 2-4 at the main office at Athens First downtown. It is a drop-in party.

- Update on Gaines: Parent Council was started this year as a result of People Empowering People training. A parent liaison from each classroom is a member and contacts each parent in their classrooms to help communicate information especially with a brand new newsletter and won the award for highest PAC attendance. Spring Concert by Monica DeLoach. Interviews continue.

- It was agreed that we could cancel the June 21st Design Team meeting.

- The next meeting will be **August 16th from 3:30-5:00 at the Chamber**. Nuts & Bolts meets on May 25th at Chase Street at 3:30.