

***Partnership for Community Learning Centers***  
**DESIGN TEAM**

Summary Notes for September 20, 2004

Executive Summary:

*Items from last meeting:*

*State of Art Conference-* Trish Reeves had to be at a doctoral defense and could not share this information with us.

Jenny Penney Oliver had preliminary conversations with a commissioner about joining the Design Team.

*Grant proposals-* CCSD does have a committee for research, grants etc., and should contact Toni Reed. Design team members should post grant interests and call for proposals of relevant grants to the design team listserv.

*Intersession update –* Tuesday Gaines and Chase are having registration for intersession. After that families can register at Athens Leisure Service. A brief description of intersession will be sent home to families this week. Some of the organizations interested in working with intersession are Counsel on Aging, Canopy Studio, UGA Music Therapy Program, Forestry Program, Georgia Museum of Art, and Georgia Climatology.

*Re-visioning retreat- November 1, 2004-* The retreat will be held at First Baptist Church with 25 parking spaces. St. Joseph's will also 75 spaces. However it is recommended that people carpool. The committee is working on funds for lunch but not confirmation at this point. The day will start with an instructional fair on differentiated instruction and curriculum interests with 4 concurrent sessions repeated 3 times. The four sessions include math and literacy programs at each school, family engagement with a focus children living in poverty, and addressing needs of English language learners in the schools. These sessions will be discussion format where teachers at each school can share what they are doing in these areas to improve student achievement. In addition there were be an evaluation component and conclude with a discussion of where we need to go with the partnership.

*Balanced Calendar-* The school district is looking at going to a balanced calendar. Some of the schools expressed concern with the whole district going to such a calendar. At the design team meeting a motion was passed for a speaking committee teachers and parents who can advocate for balanced calendar. This group will be available to speak with different schools across the district. Chase and Gaines will find at least 4 teachers, and 4 parents to be on the committee. A motion also passed to add a partnership person to the district level calendar committee. Jenny Penney Oliver cannot attend Thursday district calendar committee therefore Lori Ragsdale will attend. In addition, Lori Ragsdale will share this motion Thursday with the District committee. Once the district agrees, the design team will be asking someone to serve on the district and speaking committee.

Our next meeting is October 11, 2004, 3:30 PM Chamber of Commerce

Present: Tom Wyatt (Director community relations at Chamber of Commerce),  
Larry McKinney (Chamber of Commerce), Phyllis Stewart, Roy Rowe,

Jose Boza, JoBeth Allen, Sharon Gillespie, Barbara Benson, Pam Paisley, Lori Ragsdale, Jenny Penney Oliver, Chester Sosebee, Janna Dresden, Sandra Bland, Janie Voss, Alexa Darby, Tad MacMillian, Bridget Williams, Tim Johnson, Phyllis Childs, Madeline Van Dyck

Jackie Sandon teaching a Monday course throughout the semester.  
Chester Sosebee represented the Board of Education at today's meeting.

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Jose Boza asked the Design Team members to introduce themselves. After the introductions, the group looked at the agenda.

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*Partnership for Community Learning Center*  
**DESIGN TEAM Agenda**  
**September 20, 2004**

**Notetaker** \_\_\_\_\_ ????

1. Welcome and reacquaintances
2. *Brief* follow-ups and updates from last meeting:
  - Tim Johnson joined Nuts and Bolts as a representative from the community – thanks, Tim!
  - Welcome Chester Sosebee, BOW representative for the semester
  - State of the Art Conference – Trisha Reeves
  - Very preliminary conversation with new commissioner, Elton Dodson about joining the Design Team
  - Other things?
3. Intersession update – Sharon Gillespie and Principals
4. Re-visioning retreat – November 1, 2004
  - We want you to attend!
  - Brief update on planning for the day – Lori and Janie, Paul, other N&B's
5. Balanced calendar – we said we'd "tackle this" – what role shall we play? How can we help?
  - District has a committee
  - Are we taking a position?
  - What we know from our research

- What we know from our practice
- How visible do we want to be?

6. Updates from Chase and Gaines

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**Brief follow-ups and updates from last meeting:**

See above

**Intersession**

Currently one 20 families registered for intersession. Gaines will have registration tomorrow at their school. After that, families can register at Leisure Services. Sharon shared that organizations such as Counsel on Aging, Canopy, UGA Music Therapy Program, Forestry Program, Georgia Museum of Art, Georgia Climatology are interested in working on intersession. Sharon is also working with Ramsey Center on establishing swim lessons and ropes courses for intersession. Design team members suggested ways to increase registration. Sharon will work with Kent Kilpatrick from Athens Leisure Services and the school principals to send home a half page description of the wonderful activities scheduled for intersession.

**Partnership Re-visioning Retreat**

On November 1, 2004 the partnership Re-visioning Retreat will take place at First Baptist Church from 8:00 until 4:00pm. First Baptist Church will have 25 parking spaces, which will be held for community and design team members. Another 75 parking spaces are available at St. Joe's; however, it is recommended that people carpool to the retreat. People are welcome to carpool from Chase Street Elementary School. The details of lunch and breakfast are still being worked out. The committee is looking for funding. The agenda for the retreat is an instructional fair with differentiated instruction, curriculum interests, and evaluation being the primary focus. The Instruction fair will have four concurrent sessions that are facilitated by teachers and coaches. Each session will be repeated three times. The session topics include mathematical literacy, literacy, family engagement with a focus on children living in poverty and/or being homeless, and addressing the needs of English language learners in our schools. The nuts and bolts committee is looking for feedback. One suggestion was the integration of art and music. Besides the concurrent sessions, there will be a one-hour discussion of where the partnership has come through the eyes of the evaluation team. Chase piloted a new part of the evaluation of the partnership with classroom observations. Chase literacy and math coach will share the instrument they used and Gaines can decide if want to do a similar evaluation at which point they can tailor the instrument to meet their needs. The retreat will end with a discussion of where we are going.

Invitations will be sent to all Clarke County Schools who will be invited to send two representatives from each school.

### **Balanced calendar**

Mike Wooten has put together a committee that includes representatives from UGA, leisure services, and teachers and parents to look at options related to a balanced calendar. Do we want to offer ourselves as way to help district move forward. What role do we want to play?

Chase and Gaines discussed how as children progress to middle and high school the differing county schedule would become a big problem. Teachers at both schools would like the whole district to move to a balanced calendar. Currently a listserv regarding concerns with the balance calendar was established by parents at Barrow. The concerns expressed on this listserv reminded many Design Team members of their calendar discussion 3 years ago. Design Team members discussed what some of the possible concerns might be. Once concern mentioned was the strict school attendance policy mandated by the state department. Families may not be able to take extended summer vacations with a balanced calendar. A motion was made to form a speaking committee of teachers and parents who could make themselves available to dialogue with teachers and parents at other schools. The motion was amended to say that they would be advocating on behalf of the balanced calendar. It passed unanimously. The district office has collected information on other counties using a balanced calendar, but it might help teachers and families if they heard the views and experiences of the teachers and parents at partnership schools. Lori Ragsdale and Janie Voss will recruit 4 parents and 4 teachers to serve on speaking group. A PowerPoint presentation was recommended with the two calendars. JoBeth will work with the committee on the PowerPoint. The committee members need to be identified in the next week

Jenny Penney Oliver is currently serving on the district level calendar committee, but has a conflict for Thursday evening meeting. Lori Ragsdale will go in her place. In this discussion of the district level calendar committee it was recommended that the YWCA and Athens Leisure Services be involved. A motion was then passed to have a parent or teacher from the partnership serve on the district level calendar committee. Lori will share this motion at Thursday's meeting. The Design Team recommended a teacher and/or parent who was involved with the calendar from the beginning and if possible this person would also be apart of the speaking committee.

### **Updates and profiles from Partnership Schools**

Gaines enrollment is now at 414 students. Phyllis Stewart shared that they have 203 males and 210 females (plus one who enrolled today). The ethnic demographics of the school are 312 Black, 36 White, 6 Asian, 8 Multiracial, 50 Hispanic, and 1 American Indian. Besides increasing enrollment they have formed a partnership with Anson borough Residential Community. The new school looks beautiful but the move in date keeps moving. The current date is in December.

As of today Chase has 300 students. Recently they have focused on their Professional Development Time. The PDA's work in the classrooms to free time for the teachers to work on establishing literacy portfolios. Chase's current focus is on student work. Dr. Rowe has a connection with the State Department so they feel they are cutting edge with

their work on portfolios. Tomorrow night the first ESOL adult classes start and they are free, with child care. Thursday night Chase has its second Get cozy with books family night. There will be a puppet show and Dr. Burkins has a lot of ideas for the evening. Friday there is also a parent breakfast.

**Announcements and future agendas**

Tim Johnson shared

- Community Education Summit January 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- He is selling REM pre-release CD party to benefit Communities in Schools

**Next meeting October 11, 2004 at 3:30 PM Chamber of Commerce.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30

Thank you, Alexa Darby for your notetaking!