

Notes from meeting of Faculty Planning Group on 2-5-08

Attending: Lew Allen, Paul Matthews, Mark Faust, Allison Nealy, Elizabeth Connell, Dava C. Coleman, Hilary Conklin, Kyunghwa Lee, Kathy Thompson, Gayle Andrews, Mark Vagle, Monica Knight, Mark Tavernier, Andy Horne, Karen Watkins, Janna Dresden

1. We reviewed the points of consensus from our first meeting:
 - a. The idea of a professional development school (PDS) is worth pursuing and we will begin to have conversations on this topic throughout the college.
 - b. The goals of a PDS are:
 - i. Improved teacher preparation
 - ii. Improved professional learning for faculty from the schools and from the college of education
 - iii. Improved education for students in the schools
 - iv. Collaborative programs of inquiry rooted in practice
 - c. When we talk about improving student achievement we mean more than just scores on standardized tests

2. Through our discussion a number of items were "put on the table."
 - a. We need to consider the role of EDUC 2460L (and the new family of "pre-pre-service" courses) in developing a PDS.
 - b. We need to consider the pros and cons of a "mosaic" approach, where different programs of teacher education continue to be involved in different ways with local schools versus a more integrated or collaborative approach.
 - c. We should think about the possibility of a PDS at all three school levels: elementary, middle, and high.
 - d. Different programs have different types of involvement with local schools, different needs and different plans so Janna will meet individually with each program area in the coming weeks.
 - e. Our start date goal is Fall of '09, but we will work as diligently as if our start date were fall of '08.
 - f. From Clarke County School District:
 - i. Two new elementary schools will be opened in the fall of '09.
 - ii. They are developing plans for an 8th grade transitional program.
 - iii. They are interested in starting high school reading labs.

3. We did an exercise where we envisioned the ideal program of educator preparation. Some of the ideas generated were:
 - Urban education program and the development of cross cultural competencies
 - Teaching certification to require a 5th year and/or masters (like Social Work)
 - Totally integrated, seamless collaboration of people, places and activities, a blurring of the lines between schools and colleges of education—action and reflection and inquiry by ALL
 - Teaching hospital as a model (including the idea of rounds and vertical cohorts)
 - Strength based learning—differentiated instruction
 - Special education truly integrated with “regular” education
 - Emphasis on critical thinking and creative responses to challenging problems (again at all levels)
 - All teachers prepared to work with English Language Learners
 - Foreground issues of motivation
 - Community immersion
 - CONNECTIONS between curriculum, students, community
 - COMMUNICATION (easy, fluid, frequent) between all participants
4. We reviewed some examples of existing PDSs. This is a work in progress and more examples and more details will be added. (This chart is included as a separate attachment).
5. We discussed some ideas for possible organizing principals for a PDS:
 - a. Rigor, Relevance, and Relationship
 - b. School Wide Enrichment Model—Every Child is Gifted
6. Plans for the future

- a. Janna will investigate locations for possible site visits
- b. PDS conference is in Orlando April 10 – 13. Let Janna know if you're interested in going.
- c. We'd like to hold a future meeting at a school and involve CCSD teachers.
- d. Our next meeting
 - i. First week in March (look for Meeting Wizard invitation)
 - ii. CCSD will do a 20 minute presentation
 - iii. We will begin to discuss goals and outcome measures
 - iv. We will begin our meeting as a whole group and then divide into sub-groups (probably based on school level).