

Planning Group for a Professional Development School

Meeting March 17, 2009

Notes

1. People attending: Monica Knight, Stephanie Jones, Lew Allen, Sue Holt, Karen Samuelson, Catherine Shircliff, Becky Lane, Sarah Segrest, Noris Price, Paul Matthews, Vicki Krugman, Allison Nealy, Elizabeth Connell, Misha Cahnmann-Taylor, Julie Kittleson, Xernona Thomas, Marsha Thomas, Gayle Andrews, Mark Vagle, Red Petrovs, Gara Field, Hilary Conklin, Kyunghwa Lee, Kathy Thompson, Janna Dresden (25)
2. After a review of the agenda and introductions we briefly reviewed the current draft of our Foundational Principles and Goals (see March 17, Principles & Goals).
3. We then had a report from those who visited PDS sites in South Carolina on February 23 and 24. Some highlights were:
 - a. At Lake Carolina Elementary School
 - i. Active involvement of university faculty and students, well-organized and implemented
 - ii. Classes on site
 - iii. School wide focus on brain-based learning
 - iv. Organized, uncluttered and calming physical environment
 - v. Teachers and university liaison were engaged in on-going professional development with elements which were developed sequentially:
 1. book study on brain based learning
 2. planning for individual classroom action research projects related to the book that was read
 3. data collection
 4. data analysis and reporting
 - b. At the Center for Inquiry
 - i. A clear, school wide commitment to a specific pedagogical approach (inquiry)
 - ii. Good higher order questioning
 - iii. Some interesting project work
4. Service Learning
 - a. Brief introduction—Lew Allen
 - b. Video—Learning in Deed
5. Presentation on the School-Wide Enrichment Model (SEM)—Gara Field and Elizabeth Connell.
For a summary of SEM see: <http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/>