

Teacher Representatives:

	Present:			Present:	
Clearview	X	Jonette Tschida	Apollo	X	Chris Ann Johnson
Discovery	X	Marsha Elg	Tech	X	Brenda Siers
Kennedy	X	Sandy Mergen	North	X	Bryon Anderson
Lincoln		Linda Cooper	South	X	Jane Barth
Madison	X	Beth Lovdahl	ALC- Wilson	X	Kathy Lyerly
Oak Hill		Melissa Casey Jeff Wucherer	ALC - West		Dan Hugo
Talahi	X	Carla Reeck	SCCH	X	Bonnie Schwinghammer
Westwood		Melissa Gray	Roosevelt Early Educ.	X	Vicki Klein- Ferkinhoff

Other Representatives:

	Present:		Present:	
Elementary	X	Joni Olson	X	Diane Moeller
Middle Level	X	Pat Welter		
High School	X	Roger Ziemann		
Board	X	Bruce Mohs		Penny Zook
Media	X	Marj Hawkins		Sue Doering
Spec Ed		Alicia Jepsen		
Curriculum	X	Bernice Berns	X	Sherry Nielsen

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Bernie welcomed the group to another meeting and a new year. At our last meetings we spent time reviewing our priorities and questions of the group. Today is an opportunity for us to talk about what is going on in your buildings – what you are excited about and then what staff developments you feel are most pressing in your buildings.

2. School Sharing

Clearview

They are working on ways to improve the school climate. Because their population includes more children of color than in past, they have had outside people come in to talk to staff. They now have a Wall of Caring - any adult in the school can nominate students - they put their handprint on the wall and sign their name. Staff take pictures while students do the hand print and the school sends it home to parents with a good news post card from Paula Foley. Reader's workshop – in the schedule there is not enough reading time.

Discovery

18 teachers have started a book group and the last book they read was Reading Essentials. K-5 teachers share with each other what was meaningful from the book for use in their classrooms. The Kindergarten Title I staff are doing ABC workshop and small group reading and math workshop. Other grades are interested in doing these as well. Because of the new grade configurations, building community is another area of focus. Sixth grade teachers are excited about vertical teaming.

Kennedy

One of their yearly goals was to have someone meet with them to review test data and as a building focus on Math facts. They are determining what needs to be done at the end of each grade and developing strategies and new resources to use. The St. Joseph community is happy having preschool through grade six at their local school. AIMS web testing (probes for Math and Reading) is being done at all grades - teachers are starting to look forward to getting updated data.

Madison

After the reading inservice, staff shared something at each grade level they were going to implement. To see the connection from the inservice to what they are doing in the classrooms has been great. Third grade teachers are really pushing this and looking for extra training on benchmarking and getting more resources. Mental health, safety issues and extreme behaviors of K-1 students has become an issue and a team of 10-15 teachers got together to prioritize concerns and decide what staff can do to get control. They are using the SUCCESS program. During circle time they have a monthly theme and staff help students work on these skills. They hired a behavior interventionist to help staff with students. On late starts days they are working on fine-tuning what we believe SUCCESS for teachers should be. They are starting by identifying what the SUCCESS letters should stand for.

Oak Hill

There is a book club at Oak Hill. Staff have used the two hour late starts to meet at grade level and they have developed additional math units at kindergarten for kids who need more. The extra time on late start days give them the opportunity to work on things they don't usually have time for.

Talahi

Vertical Teaming has been positive. The Reading First grant for grades K-3 is very exciting. They have 120 minutes of strict reading each day and kids are really improving. Being trained to be Reading Specialists has been great. Special Education, ELL, and Title I are now included in classrooms.

Westwood

Greg Johnson started a new school improvement committee to look at tests scores, etc. (so Westwood does not get on the needs improvement list). They have targeted services after school classes for grades 1-6. Late start was hard on 6th grade teachers being pulled out of their building.

Apollo

They have a new focus on Reading in all subject areas. The Language Arts teachers send e-mails to all staff of reading strategies they can use in every subject. In January they are going to have each department look at Science strategies each class can use. The Industrial Technology class recently built a recording studio. The Family Consumer Science class is working with children's playschool and they will have 3-5 year olds coming to school in February. In Science they are doing a fruit fly activity to study genetics.

Tech

Kathryn Norman has developed a new web site of Art programs at Tech. In Orchestra, three students made it to mid-level state and one will be the concert master at the state Music conference next month. The late start activities dealing with vertical teaming are really important to staff. There is a collaborative of Special Education and mainstream teachers sharing ideas and strategies. The mainstream and special education teachers are team teaching - the regular education teachers make a lesson plan worksheet and the special education teacher reviews it and adds strategies that work with their students (something like a picture, etc.). The Special Education staff will be involved in the vertical teaming activities.

North

They too, are seeing a different population. This year they have a really good group of students and discipline is down. Grades are up but academic needs are continuing to get higher. They have put a lot of intervention activities in place. They are now focusing on other areas for kids of poverty/color and expanded their mentorship programs. They are working on curriculum activities such as character building and vocabulary development. They set goals and are developing plans to meet them. They have done a physical reorganization (putting teams closer together and having a 7th grade floor/stairway). Project Hope – volunteer service learning. They had a North cold day where kids could wear winter garb and they had a lot of fun. They also have done team building for both students and staff. The staff is trying to analyze if the change in grade levels at the elementary schools is having a good effect on students.

South

They are working at taking the curriculum out of the classroom and spreading to the school at large. They did activities with Socratic seminars for kids. This activity helps kids to feel free to talk in classes. It works really well in social studies classes. They identified the need to address diversity issues and getting along with others. They held popcorn chats where each team invited 40 kids on a volunteer basis to discuss how they celebrate the winter holiday. The kids who volunteered to attend took this back and gave presentation to their class. Jane Barth trained other teachers at South who can now do the seminars. Members asked if this could be done at other grades levels and if she could give the training to us at our next meeting. Jane indicated that it does take an adult who really buys into the concept and she would be willing to do with our group at our next meeting.

ALC

Staff really appreciates the time to meet on late start days, but there is a decline in student attendance on those days. Because they work with kids who are of the same ability level but in different grade they are struggling a little with the vertical teaming. They try to work with themes and this last quarter has been compassion. They had activities for kids including; Toys for Tots, making blankets for Anna Marie's, and Kids for Hunger (bagging food for kids). This year staff has seen an increase in gang activities and an increase in fights. They also have a higher numbers of low income students.

SCCH

The staff at the Children's Home see a lot of the same populations as the ALC does but their clientele is more stable and there is less fighting. Again the Vertical teaming isn't as big because they have 9-12 graders mixed together - although it is good to know what grade levels concepts are being taught. They held an annual auction in December and students can use the money they make to buy gifts for their family. They also had a Christmas store where the Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes make items to sell.

Roosevelt Early Childhood Ctr.

They have a lot of teachers using the Second Step social skills curriculum. They are doing Staff development activities focusing on early literacy.

Media

Media staff are excited about the many good things on the web that are helpful for teachers. Encourage staff to check out StaffNET and let Media know if there is anything they should add. StaffNET is not available from home.

Board of Education

Bruce Mohs is excited to be a part of this committee. In September he sent out a letter asking schools if they had any volunteer opportunities for him at their building. Since then, he has been at a lot of buildings. At North he is currently mentoring an 8th grade boy in Reading and Math. SCCH auction and staff lunch was great. He met with Bryon Anderson at North after our last meeting and learned more about technology in the Science classrooms, what we do now and what can be done. He volunteered at South when the students walked over to Tech to watch a play. Through Community Education he helps tutor ELL adults. At Roosevelt in the four year old classroom he observed the social skills being taught. He really enjoys the new community linkage pieces of Board meetings at school sites when parent and staff come for dialogue. At Talahi he is part of AYP task force on curriculum improvement and enjoys seeing the enthusiasm of staff. The Apollo fruit fly activity sound great and he would like to observe a lab.

Curriculum

Bernie will be meeting with each school faculty in the next two months to talk about the late starts and curriculum. Sherry Nielsen will be putting together study group opportunities for Reading groups – she will send out flyers to teachers. Bernie talked about the elementary instructional day and how the length of time in our district is so much shorter than surrounding district (up to 30 minutes per day) at some schools. Conversely, our high school days are longer than the surrounding districts. This is mainly due to transportation issues but she thinks we should review this and see if there is a way to change for the future. She would like you to share this information with other staff at your building.

3. Staff Development Needs

We will also take time at our next meeting to respond. It was suggested that as buildings do building improvement plans having the district staff consider taking some of these items for the district-wide initiatives. If buildings have pressing issues e-mail them to Bernie. Next week Bernie will be attending a Regional TQE grant meeting and each district was asked to bring our top three district staff development needs. The consortium will use these areas when planning inservice activities for the districts.

4. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Jane Barth will present Socratic Workshop – approximately 45 minutes
- Staff Development Items
- Other items – send ideas to Dr. Berns (Bernice.berns@isd742.org).

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be February 3, 2005 - 3:30 p.m. – DAO.

Future meeting dates:	Feb. 3	Mar. 3	Apr. 7	May 5	June 2
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