

GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – April 11, 2013 – Mountain View School

Call to Order: Chairperson Tammy Merritt called meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Attendees:

Superintendent William Banning, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth DeVita, Board Member Yvonne DeGaw, Mountain View Principal Ned Schoenwetter, Kellie Pearson, teacher at Mountain View, Pam Orr, teacher at Foothill, Chairperson: Tammy Merritt, Members: Kary O'Brien, Tammy Johnsen, Jennifer Tangel, Carin Ezal, Karen Van Gool, Melissa Fitch, Kathy Bohley, Lisa Steinberger, Cheryl Weakliem, Sue Burns, UTP-G Michelle Hay, and UTP Rep. Susan Zink,

Approval of Minutes: Cheryl Weakliem motioned and Tammy Johnsen seconded to approve minutes from March 14, 2013 meeting at Isla Vista school. Motion was unanimously approved.

School Report: Ned Schoenwetter, Principal Mountain View School

Background: from Chicago, has taught in GUSD at Ellwood IV Foothill and in the curriculum department for the district, 4th year at Mt View. Achievement increases in scores across district and at Mountain View Trainings in math, writing, staff eager to learn. Now at 40 ELD students (growth from 20). Physical campus overview PTA programs include: Cougar mentor, Artist in residence, Poet in residence (5th grade), Field trip bussing, Cultural activities, Parent volunteers MAGIC provides extra support for Music, Art, PE, Computer lab, science, anti-bullying support

Higher level thinking program (Mountain View version of GATE but not a pull out program)
Open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th. 3 projects per year with option for higher level analysis

Special Day Classes: 2 classes now, will add K-2 class next year

Band and Orchestra: Band before school, orchestra lessons offered

Enrichment activities (after school) include: Lego robotics, chess, dance, Elements theater company

Foundation: recently started, for fundraising outside of PTA and MAGIC, run independent of school by families that were involved with school

Superintendent Banning spoke briefly about consideration of fundraising requirements, PTA fundraising limitations, endowment possibilities, regulations of when fees can be charged.

Student led conferences (not a parent-teacher conference as done in Nov) in spring, all grades, students present portfolios to parents, goal setting, student self assessment, promotes higher level thinking skills.

Kellie Pearson: Powerful to see students interact with parents, helps focus on goals, helps behavior.

Parent-teacher conference is also scheduled if necessary

Similar practice at family school (“museum”)

Kathy Bohley: Kellogg does too, kids really enjoy it

Question Kary O’Brien: When are goals set?

Kelly: Students grade themselves in academic subjects as well as behavior, some do fall goals, class goals

Yvonne DeGraw: 6th grade exit interviews (done right before Memorial Day)

Ned Schoenwetter: 6th grade exit interviews at Mounatin View also involves portfolio, ~40 community members come and have small group meetings with students, keeps students working until end of school, see how astute students have become

Superintendent Banning: Good activity for child and good PR, will volunteer to be an interviewer

Ned Schoenwetter: Adults like hearing what students have learned

Elizabeth DeVita: Good introspective process, positions students for future

Coherent Writing - Elizabeth DeVita

This is 1st year of program

Two teachers: Kellie Pearson 4th/5th combo at Mt View, Pam Orr K teacher at Foothill

District has created a leadership team with teacher from each school and 4 principals, meets ~9 times per year, conduct trainings, assessments, goal to improve student writing in different genre.

Now a systemic, widely supported program throughout district

How are teachers teaching and what are students expected to learn.

Pam Orr - lower elementary

Comprehension and telling of story, main focus: create shape go map (green triangle, yellow boxes, lastly resolution in red circle) identifying characters, setting, wish or problem of story followed by so ..., but ..., then..., and at last solution. In K oral, 1st grade write and illustrate In K learning structure of sentence, learn what nouns and verbs are, simple two word sentences starting with their name and choosing a verb. Students have a journal

Next: add common nouns such as “the”

Then use adjectives (spelling is given to students)

Sentences become more complex, students learning capitalization, word spacing, punctuation, etc.

Starting now with opinion writing

Word wall with words to select from so students can do independent writing.

Add “because” to show their opinion

New writing program teaches structure of language from the start, students learn sentences, teachers have structure

This year: focus on summary of narrative = story elements and key information instead of retelling. Learning to write, summarize

Michelle Hay added: How implemented in class will depend on how much training has been done and how many years teacher has been working with program.

This year is summary of narrative, next year will add summary of expository, more to come after that (descriptive, narrative, response to literature)

Kellie Pearson – upper elementary: Various story map outlines, students have vocabulary

Entering 4th grade learn more sophisticated conflict, climax, mood, motive,

Will read book, break into groups

Go over text, discuss, teacher reads allowed, guides discussion of main character, paraphrasing, how to be concise, and discussion of adjectives.

Use graphic organizer: protagonist, antagonist, setting wish, conflict, and resolution. Cover Lesson of the story, Use of variables (abbreviations) for characters, circle to “wrap up”. Write story from graphic organizer. Writing does not stress grammar or spelling

Model lesson: Rainbow fish

By 4th grade ready for compound sentences, subject and predicate

Start with bare bones sentence, add adjective, prepositional phrase, adverb, to add complexity and structure

Grammar game: go backwards and take words out

“The Turtle Swam” example

Students share their work

Exercise focusing on prepositions

Read a novel, do a character map to see how character has changed over course of book. BME = beginning middle end

Now learn to show don’t tell to show actions and imagery

How relates to common core: students understand difference between narrative and expository, use academic language for expression opinions, how to agree, disagree, etc

4 “L”s when working with a partner: Look, Lean, Lower, Listen

Question from Tammy Johnsen and answer from Elizabeth DeVita: SB School district does not use coherent writing program but strategies and approaches should translate.

Elizabeth DeVita: Information in handouts

Kellie Pearson: expository text will involve a different type of graphic organizer, define, process describe, classify, compare

“Voters” cards to keep kids active and engaged during learning process

District Update: William Banning, Superintendent

Budget development in May: Governor issues May revise, supposed to adopt budget soon thereafter. As a basic aid district we have a pretty good idea of our budget.

Recognition season: April 23 bus driver day

Appreciation of classified employees: district staff shadowed classified employees

District submitted 3 names for recognition to county. Acknowledged Richard Chavez Cindy Olson, Sue Foreman. Richard and Cindy selected as county employees of year and are under consideration for state recognition.

Last night parent recognition of parents at the point that their youngest child leaves the district

3 schools submitted QAD grant applications: IV ,Hollister, Ellwood

Preparing for CSTs: testing pilot of common core assessment
Bill observed computer lab during testing, got initial feedback
Looking into benchmark assessments available during year

Security

Backboard connect will provide notification services through call center. All families can be notified in a matter of minutes: call, text, Email, parent portals available to establish individual parameters

Pilot for 3 schools (IV, El Camino, Brandon) - Connect for Teachers: Has a library of messages for whole class or individual students and messages are available translated in spoken voice.

Coherent writing and coherence from perspective of what is being developed in the district. How to balance National standards and with autonomy of individual teachers, given success of the district. Teachers who pilot new programs such as coherent writing, number talks, etc to figure out how to use a system and info trickles down through schools, grade levels. Giving lead people the capacity to build program and allow to flow down, even if time consuming, is the only method that works. Curriculum cannot drive instruction, good teaching does. District is aware there are differences in implementation. Big picture: change is met with resistance but it's not necessarily a negative, it can be a focusing agent. For movement to be effective you have to resist it yourself. Superintendent's role is to be aware of where there is resistance and why.

In May: DAC will talk about differentiation. In advance of May meeting will do survey Should DAC develop a set of common core questions to request be covered for every school presentation?

“Ask the District”: William Banning, Superintendent

Karen Van Gool question: Is there an uptick in absence due to illness?

Answer: Letters home due to SARB school attendance review program. Ed code defines when student become truant due to excused or unexcused absences. Attendance rate appears normal.

School Council and PTA Reports:

Deferred school reports in the interest of time but had two school announcements:

Kary O'Brien, Isla Vista: Everyone invited to school Little Mermaid performances coming up April 18, 19 and 20th.

Carin Ezal, Mountain View: Givens farm provided vegetables and strawberries for everyone to sample today. They also contribute to educational programs and would like to expand community outreach. Contact information is provided on the handout.

Next meeting: will be at May 9, 2013 – Hollister School at 9:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carin Ezal