

OMEC Notes May 16, 2008

meeting place: Chemeketa Community College

attended by representatives from these communities: Vernier Software, Hewlett Packard, small colleges, community college, OCTM, ODE, Western Oregon, middle and high school teachers, and math specialist.

Our Mission

The mission of the Oregon Mathematics Education Council is to propose, through intersegmental study and deliberation, recommendations to improve the learning environment in mathematics in Oregon schools at all levels, early childhood through college, and to sponsor activities and proposals to improve the pre-service and in-service training of teachers, classroom instruction, and articulation of the curriculum at all levels.

ODE Report

We were delighted to welcome Paul Hibbard, ODE's new mathematics curriculum specialist. After only three days on the job, he attended our meeting and brought a draft document of the high school standards. Questions were asked and recommendations for changes in the draft were made.. Paul also reported on the K-8 standards, saying that West Ed is preparing a Crosswalk document to compare the 2002 and 2007 standards.

State HS committees: Essential Skills & Assessment

The Essential Skills were also an item of discussion. The OMEC committee would like to see a truly integrated approach to the measurement of a student's capacity for the Essential Skills

Linda Samek reported that there is a real disconnect with the Assessment committee appointed by ODE because they are using the state tests (OAKS). She feels that the Essential Skills cannot be tested with a multiple-choice format. It is likely that the problem solving work sample would be the primary means of demonstrating proficiency in the math essential skills. Linda also spoke about Education Pathways. They put on a conference to bring together K-12 folks and community college people. There is an on-line guide for Early Childhood and high school programs like Cadet Teaching.

OMLI

There will be a three day sharing at Oregon State from July 31-August 2nd regarding the outcomes of the OMLI grant. Each participating district will have a presentation to showcase their three-year professional development plan.

High School NCTM panel

Laura Lethe summarized notes from a national panel appointed by NCTM. She and two others from Oregon attended this session in Salt Lake City. Their report was traditional, but they have some very non-traditional ideas. They are not making any content recommendations. The whole focus at high school should be reasoning and sense making and it should permeate all the course work. It is basically an emphasis on the process standards. The draft will be ready this coming September, but not presented until Spring of 2009 in Washington DC, at the NCTM convention. Professional development continues to be a huge piece of this.

OMEC representation

There was much discussion on the future of OMEC. Currently there is one representative from all the four year colleges. We also need a person who has the math piece and a broader education piece. We also would like a parent representative from the Chalkboard project. Members of OMEC will be writing a job description so that we can give meaningful tasks to a broad range of members. The long-term threat to our organization is not getting people into the pipeline to take mathematics and science coursework.

OMEC will be writing a position paper to TSPC at their next meeting on October 17th at Chemeketa Community College. We need to gather more data on how the high school “newness” will be funded. TSPC is getting ready to do a major revision. Klay Kruczek of Western Oregon College has agreed to be our next president, beginning in the Spring of 2009.