

OMEC Notes

Thursday, October 13, 2005

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Northwest Mathematics Conference

Present:

Kathy Hall, Hewlett Packard
Frazer Boergadine, Principal, North Clackamas SD
Ann McMahon, former elementary teacher, Portland Public Schools
Marla Baber, Reynolds Middle School
Bruce Schafer, Oregon University System
Virginia Gray, Southern Oregon University
Kathi Quick, High School District, Bend SD
Karen Higgins, Oregon State University
Karen Marrongelle, Portland State University
Mike Boardman, Pacific University
Jon Wiens, Oregon Department of Education, Office of Curriculum & Instruction
Cathy Brown, Oregon Department of Education, Office of Assessment
Linda Samek, Corban College
Elizabeth Lundy, Linn-Benton Community College
Phyllis Leonard, Chemeketa Community College
David Coronado, MESA (Math Engineering Science Advancement)
Klay Kruczek, Western Oregon University
Nicole Rigelman, George Fox University

Reports:

1. OCTM (Trudy Mitchell)
 - Winnie Miller and Giny Christiansen attended the NCTM affiliate leaders conference, focus reading *Good to Great*, each area representative is reading a chapter from the book and sharing
 - Why do individuals become members? How can we serve them and keep them?
 - Professional Development Cadre – network of leaders acting as a *Critical Friend* supporting schools in their schools, trouble-shooting problems

2. OMLI (Karen Higgins)
 - Pretty amazing experience, incredible energy among teachers, administrators and faculty at the closing banquet
 - 180 teachers and 90 administrators participated
 - teachers participate in 6 mathematics content courses over the three summers and a 90-hour collegial leadership course over the three summers

- administrators participate in a course designed to help them support and sustain the mathematics reform in the building
- district leadership teams meet once a month, all participating teachers and administrators meet once a month, each school leadership team works to initiate, support, and sustain mathematics reform in their building
- schools and district are supported with site visits four times a year
- several meeting participants who participated/attended, shared stories about this experience (power of having K-12 teachers in one room, camaraderie built among teachers within and across districts)

3. TSPC (Linda Samek)

- About 1-year ago the basic and advanced competencies were accepted as “rules” in division 65 (competencies for content related teacher licensure)
- Competencies for elementary teachers were submitted to TSPC last spring and they will be discussed at the November 3 meeting
- The commission is working to develop these clear competencies in all core content areas... TSPC are impacted by NCLB (No Child Left Behind) legislation and NCATE (National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education) accreditation looking at what preservice teachers should know and be able to do
- Linda raised the need to be cautious about making sure that these standards have a positive impact on the preparation of teachers rather than impacting in ways that are similar to “teaching to the test/standards”

4. OPAS (Oregon Pre-engineering and Applied Science) (Bruce Schafer) – Kathy Hall participated on OMEC’s behalf

- scope of the conference – summit looking at engineering and applied science from Kindergarten through sophomore year in college
- resource materials provided to each delegate in advance of the summit, left with 8 recommendations... a report will be available in the next couple weeks... an online version of the materials can be found at <http://opas.ous.edu>
- some of the working groups have already planned to meet again to follow-up on the work that began at the summit last month
- examples of the recommendations – 1) take problem-solving orientation to instruction to serve mathematics and science learning, 2) why students should take both mathematics and science throughout their education (opportunities to learn math and science), 3) tasks forces formed to align with the working groups from the summit, 4) customizable career pathways communicated to students
- Kathy Hall suggested that OMEC come up with ideas about how to communicate with parents (create a flyer [funded by HP or Intel], publicize events, etc.)
- Bruce suggested that similar project has been in the works with some computer science folks... interviewing CS graduates to find out what they do

in their jobs hoping to influence decisions re: what they can do with a degree in... thinking about bullet points, webpage, etc. – parents, peers, career counselors and high school teachers all have a major influence on the decision that students make re: college and majors in college – may want to look at an integrated communication plan that would include print, electronic, and people

- Marla suggested that we would to also look at having materials in a multi-lingual format... Phyllis suggested that it is often more influential for a successful Hispanic student to visit Woodburn HS and share their story

5. Elizabeth Lundy (NSF-grant for community college math curriculum project)

- \$4 million proposal, NSF asked if you could do it for \$1 million, Elizabeth said no, but \$1.3 million... NSF said they didn't have that money and Elizabeth turned down the \$1 million and is exploring other funding options

6. TOTOM (Klay Kruczek)

- This year's meeting at WOU in September, next year will be hosted by Linfield in McMinnville
- Reports from OMLI
- Discussion re: assessment of the competencies
- Sharing of sample lessons and projects

7. ODE Assessment (Cathy Brown)

- Statewide testing - students have started already on TESA (the computerized testing system), the testing opportunities for paper-pencil have been downsized, the test is now shorter than it has been, test for language learners regarding their language proficiency has begun this year
- Our state testing system has been reviewed nationally, of the states reviewed thus far, no state has received higher than a D grade in the review... news to come
- Cathy is chairing a national task force discussing the possibility of a national curriculum
- Linda Samek is participating in a task force called the Chalkboard Project, currently looking at teacher and administrator induction
- Cathy sent two articles for our pre-reading hoping for the possibility of focusing our future work
- Ginny shared her concern regarding one of the articles notion that a goal would be that everyone would have a post-secondary degree by age 26, Kathy Hall agreed that there was a bias – she comments that she values higher ed to help individuals get their thinking skills together but worries about the bias, Elizabeth reminds us that a post-secondary degree could be an Associate's Degree

- Karen Higgins discussed the teacher induction article and the connections the principles of the OMLI grant – Ann McMahon discussed the connection to collaborative planning models that she experienced in Australia – Marla Baber discussed how hard it has been to help her colleagues to see the need for being part of a professional learning community
- Linda Samek pointed to the fact that the statistics also note that part of the attrition was related to teachers moving to a different school district, teachers moving around can be very expensive
- Ginny Gray shared the model of a middle school in SOU where every class brings their kids to a “learning center” where the kids experience a hands-on lesson and the classroom teachers stay in the room so it is a professional development experience for them too, Frazer equated this to the literacy coach model that North Clackamas and Reynolds are utilizing... Spokane has expanded this model to mathematics coaches as well
- Kathi Quick discussed how their schools in Bend are utilizing Critical Friends groups as a way of supporting and sharing instruction dilemmas – she is a coach of a group and finds that sharing these dilemmas help each other know that others have problems as well and that they help one another trouble-shoot and solve problems
- Marla discussed how the changing demographics has caused teachers in her building to adapt and change – we’ve found that as we stop comparing how our kids in our district are different and talking about how they are the same
- Future teachers conference (LBCC) is in its 5th year – helping preservice teachers realize that they are not alone, establishing connections to organizations and relationships with colleagues

8. ODE Curriculum and Assessment (Jon Wiens)

- Problem solving summit to revise the standards – what should the standards look like? The summit will take place on either December 1, 2, 9, and 13). If anyone is interested in participating, contact Jon Wiens at 503.378.3600 x 2286 or jonathan.wiens@state.or.us.
- State board met in September and issued a white paper re: aligning the P-16 system and possibly changing the diploma requirements – they are looking for public comment, first round of comments requested by December 16, 2005
- Proficiency-focused approach taken in the document rather than a focus on the Carnegie unit in this white paper
- Mike Boardman suggested that we as a group should send comments. Trudy suggested that we should email ideas to the group and submit OMEC comments. How will OMEC get involved in this? Linda will set up a discussion board on Blackboard where there will be room for response to each of the questions. OMEC will submit a response summarizing the online “discussion” of each focus question.
- Karen Marrongelle suggested that we could use this as an opportunity to advocate for a statistics, rather than algebra alone... pointing that statistics

prepares students for a broader range of careers (not just mathematics, but social justice issues) – focus on quantitative literacy

9. MAA (<http://www.maa.org>) and College Board (Mike Boardman)
 - Special interest group just begun for teaching upper level high school mathematics courses
 - MAA and College Board want to develop curriculum materials for AP courses
 - AP course audit... there is a need to take a look at what is happening in these courses – “AP” logo will now be protected by auditing courses who use the logo

Math Contests (Klay Kruczek)

- OIMT – Oregon Invitational Math Tournament – high school math conference that students qualify for through the regional tournaments
- Klay distributed minutes from the meeting in June with all the universities hosting the tournament... there is a meeting originally scheduled on October 18 (likely will be postponed)
- Discussion at the meeting re: the need for both group and individual components, prizes versus scholarships, etc.

Upcoming Meetings

- Winter Meeting will be Friday, February 3, 2006 – 9:30-1:30 location Public Service Building at Oregon Department of Education (joint meeting with OSEC)
- Spring Meeting will be Saturday, May 20, 2006 – 9:30-12:30 at OSU