

OMEC Notes

Friday, January 28, 2005

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry – Classroom 1

In Attendance: Craig Beier, Michael Boardman, Karen Marrongelle, Linda Samek, Nicole Rigelman, Karen Higgins, Cathy Brown, Brian Goldman, Trudy Mitchell, Ginger Redlinger, Klay Kruczek, Ginny Gray,

1. Reports

a. ODE (Ginger R., Cathy B.):

- i. The agency is trying to rethink subject area focus. Would like schools to think about learning as a personal experience rather than a collection of skills that one masters, checks off a list, and receives a certificate. Ginger Redlinger has moved to a position as Industrial Arts and Engineering Specialist. Will continue on OMEC while welcomed. Bruce Schafer of the Oregon University System is putting together a pre-engineering/technology summit. OMEC should be involved. This will be perhaps late July. There is a planning meeting in March or April.
- ii. Engaged in surveys of enacted curriculum. This is a project of the CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers). This project includes all subject areas now. It will provide a map of the taxonomy of mathematics. Teachers can then create a map of their own instruction for comparison. Looking for someone to be in Tampa Feb 21-24 to participate in work related to this project (coding documents). Ginny Gray volunteered.
- iii. Title II-B Grant (elementary and secondary education act, specifically mathematics and science partnerships). RFP was not as stringent as last time. There are three parts to this grant: 1) Continue to provide support for work that has already begun. 2) Between one and three new partnerships. 3) Support OMLI grant. Minimum of three year commitment and maximum of five years.
- iv. The Mathematics Curriculum Specialist position is available at ODE.
- v. Because of difficulties with obtaining a random sample for field testing, it has been difficult to impossible to make a prediction about the statewide scores on mathematics problem solving. Mathematics problem solving exam is suspended until 2007-8. Work samples are not suspended. Currently looking at other options.
- vi. Distributed CD with current standards, official scoring guides, and sample tests.
- vii. Distributed an overview of Oregon's assessment system.

b. OCTM (Trudy M., Winnie M.):

- i. OCTM website disappeared about 1 month ago. The webmaster is in the process of reconstructing the site.
- ii. Workshops are still being re-tooled.

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- c. OMEC Website (Mike B.):
 - i. Will be remaking the OMEC website this spring. Including a new archive and updated links. Called for suggestions for the site.
- d. TSPC and Oregon Educator Licensure Assessment (ORELA) (Linda S.)
 - i. OMEC recommendations for basic and advanced mathematics endorsement are going to be voted on for adoption (in rule form) in March.
 - ii. Oregon has looked at options for general content knowledge exams. TSPC did a test review and had agreed to adopt the ETS exams for early childhood, elementary and middle level teachers. The commission subsequently gave a contract to National Evaluation Systems (NES) to design a general knowledge test to be used as an entrance exam. The new test begins two weeks from tomorrow. The test includes Oregon specific history and geography in the exam which will disadvantage candidates who have not experienced this content. There are also pedagogical items, inappropriate to an entrance exam. There are other issues in terms of testing issues (how cut scores are being determined, for example).
- e. NSF Curriculum Development Project and Future Teachers Conference (Elizabeth L.):
 - i. No news on the Curriculum Development Project status at this time.
 - ii. Linda Samek distributed information on Future Teachers Conference (Saturday, February 26 at Linn-Benton CC).
- f. Oregon Math-Science Partnership (Mike B.):
 - i. Boardman gave a status report of the Northwest Oregon partnership formed through the Title IIB grant.
- g. Undergraduate Research Conference (Mike B.)
 - i. University of Portland is hosting an undergraduate research conference this Spring for mathematics students.
- h. Oregon Mathematics Leadership Institute (OMLI) (Karen M.):
 - i. Marrongelle reported that the OMLI website is online (www.omli.org).
 - ii. The project had a successful planning retreat in December.
 - iii. Leadership workshop in February that will include most of the OMLI staff (Feb 16-19).
- i. ODE has a grant with CISCO Systems and US DOE to provide a course for in-service grades 3-8 teachers on algebraic thinking. 30 hour course (15 online, 15 in person). Other states are Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey. Currently 134 teachers have expressed an interest in participating in Oregon.

2. State Mathematics Contest (Linda S. and Klay K.)

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- a. Klay and Linda have contacted the former leaders of the state mathematics contest. Planning to schedule a meeting 6/4/05. They are trying to involve additional independent colleges and universities.
3. OMEC Constitution and Membership (Nicole R. and Linda S.):
 - a. The council had a discussion of the OMEC constitution and proposed revisions.
4. Elementary Teaching Competencies (Nicole R. and Linda S.)
 - a. next steps – make case that teaching mathematics requires a special set of knowledge and skills
 - b. aligning courses for teachers
 - c. assessing elementary mathematics teachers content knowledge – examples at <http://www.soe.umich.edu/lmt/research/downloads/releaseitems/2002/02releas.pdf>
5. Other Business – set spring meeting date May 13, 2005 10am. Location is tentatively the Math Learning Center in Salem, but is to be determined.

Joint OMEC/OSEC Meeting

1. Math problem solving assessment was dropped mainly because of financial reasons; lack of ability to run a reliable field test. There are people who believe that this will affect scientific inquiry scoring.
2. Math and science competencies have both been submitted to TSPC-Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and will be addressed again at the March 2005 meeting. Now the concern is that these competencies will have to be assessed.
3. We need to invite more key policy makers and stakeholders to our table. Ginger Redlinger will email a list of such people to invite such as Salaam Noor, members from the CC Board and State Board of Education.
4. We would like to find examples of research papers that would help us formulate a white paper on the greatest predictors of college success or getting students to take to more of the fundamental classes in math and science.
 - i. Examples of areas to look:
 - Studies that have been done with Talented and Gifted kids and what characteristics or skill indicators do they have in common.
 - Information on the appropriate developmental stage of learners for algebra
 - Predictor of success of college science students-Camille saw presentation.
 - Advanced placement and college entrance acceptance.

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