

OMEC Notes

Friday, May 13, 2005

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Math Learning Center

Present: Rick Sorenson, Laura Lethe, Cathy Brown, Trudy Mitchell, Klay Kruczek, Craig Beier, Kathy Hall, Linda Samek, Karen Higgins, Nicole Rigelman

1. Reports

a. ODE (Cathy Brown) –

- There is a new mathematics curriculum person beginning July 1, 2005. The individual is from a university in Alaska, his name is Jonathan Weins.
- There is a discussion about requiring all schools administering the OSAT through the TESA (computerized system). The bill may not make it out of the committee. Some districts would really struggle to make the tests available that way due to funding. The students taking the tests through TESA will have three mathematics testing opportunities.

b. OCTM

- Final meeting for Chuck Peterson, Jim Specht, and Brent Freeman which leaves a female board. Don Fineran presented and shared stories about the men. Giny Christiansen's last meeting and Winnie Miller will take over in August.
- Board is looking for ways to provide meaningful staff development as opposed to one-shot approaches to staff development. The Retooling group is looking at how the workshops are put together. Being an advocate for a school district for one or more years has not been overly effective since it is so new, folks aren't sure how to use the advocate. A group that went to an NCTM Leadership conference found appealing a model of a one-day seminar with follow-up. Board for the planning group include Molly Smith, Giny Christiansen, Lynn Bonser, and Phil Bartsch.
- Discussion about mathematics problem solving.

c. OMLI (Karen H)

- State MSP monies have supported the funding of 10 additional administrators and 60 teachers.
- Karen is organizing facilities at OSU, July 25-August 12.
- There are 6 content planning groups (4 person teams) and a leadership team. There was a leadership summit with district leadership teams in October and a planning retreat in December.
- Participants will take 2 content and 1 leadership course each summer (9 quarter hours).
- Nicole has started initial site visits to the partner districts. After the summer leadership institutes there will be 3-4 site visits in each school each year.

- Dave Weaver from RMC has developed the evaluation plan for the project. There are survey tools as well as a discourse-related classroom observation tool that we are using.
 - OML will move the conference to accommodate the OMLI schedule.
 - d. TSPC (Linda Samek)
 - The basic and advanced math competencies have been approved by TSPC. There was a letter in the most recent TOMT regarding these competencies.
 - Nicole presented the Elementary Mathematics Competencies the OACTE (Oregon Association of Colleges of Teacher Education) and made the case for the knowledge needed for elementary teachers to this group. A copy was also sent to TSPC.
 - Linda, Nicole, or another OMEC representative should be prepared to present to the Commission in August 3-5ish (Thursday or Friday) at OSU-Cascade.
 - TSPC has added to the Oregon Administrative Rules a section for Early Childhood (EC) Competencies and will later add Elementary Competencies. The more specific Elementary Mathematics Competencies will replace the mathematics section of the EC document.
 - There is a push currently to allow community colleges to grant 4 year degrees in teacher education.
- 2. OMEC constitution and membership
 - Nicole distributed the updated constitution for review.
 - We discussed new individuals to invite, particularly teachers. Cathy Brown will invite Kathi Quick from Bend HS. Laura Lethe could also find someone from Salem (Marie Cramer or Darrel Trussell from McNary HS). Laura Lethe will invite Bob Wunsch from Willamette Christian School. Kathy Hall will invite Paul Regan a middle school teacher. Nicole will ask Giny Gray to follow-up and invite Andy Strange as an elementary school representative. Trudy Mitchell will invite David Coronado from MESA housed at PSU.
 - Linda will send out an email with the constitution attached and ask that members vote on its approval.
- 3. K-12 Curriculum Adoption, Implementation and Support (Laura Lethe)
 - 03-04 elementary schools adopted Bridges K-2 and Investigations 3-5
 - 04-05 middle (Connected Math) and high schools (College Prep Mathematics) were adopted
 - Best Practices courses were a first step in the process. Read articles, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics (NCTM), EdThoughts (McRel), Future Basis: Developing Numerical Power. After reading these materials the committee decided which curricula to recommend.
 - Laura appreciates the connections she sees between the Elementary Mathematics Competencies and what her teachers need to know to teach the curricula they are using.
 - Professional development around the curriculum was a first step, yet voluntary for teachers. Next the professional development will focus on content.
 - Karen Higgins asked if they were incorporating the lesson study approach into the professional develop. So far, no... Laura's approach has been to look at

classroom cases – case studies. It is safer for teachers to critique others’ practice than it is for them to critique their own.

- Teachers and parents struggle with the shift in pedagogy. What is the goal in teaching math this way? There is a need to understand the rationale behind these approaches. Kathy Hall commented that the skills needed to get you in to Harvard are exactly those skills that cause you to fail in life (from *The Good Life*). Pencil pushers are not what we need. We need problem solvers that can work collaboratively.
- Karen H. asked about how Laura plans to support the College Prep Math (CPM) implementation at the high school level. Craig said that the implementation of CPM in his school “turned-the-world upside-down.” There was a performance dip at first and then the teachers learned how to better accommodate the needs of all learners.
- Trudy commented that the process that committee went through would be helpful more broadly.

6. Other Business

- a. Set dates for next year –
 - Fall Meeting will be held in the evening in conjunction with NWMC (tentatively... Thursday, October 13, 4:30-6:30pm)
 - Winter Meeting will be Friday, February 3, 2006 – 9:30-1:30 location TBA (joint meeting with OSEC)
 - Spring Meeting will be Saturday, May 20, 2006 – 9:30-12:30 at OSU
- b. Elections – President Kathy Hall, President-Elect talk to Mike Boardman and Karen Marrongelle, Secretary Nicole Rigelman

7. Assessing Mathematical Problem Solving (Cathy B)

- Assessment of problem solving will be done with multiple-choice items. Cathy has been charged with developing items and will field test in 2005-2006 with assessment beginning in 2007-2008.
- The problem solving standards will be “tweaked” to reflect logic and reasoning. The new standards will be taken to the board in January 2006. Kathleen Vanderwall is in charge of the revision of the problem solving standards.
- This committee could have a role in making recommendations and/or developing a position paper about what problem solving should be and/or how problem solving is best assessed. Does the assessment belong at the state level or classroom level?
- Linda shared some data from the middle schools and discussed how they’d heard teachers saying that the writing and problem solving had influenced classroom practice in positive ways. Kathy H. commented that kids are better served by the process rather than the specific content.
- Could field test problem solving assessment items with Oregon students as well as Washington and well as districts in the Eastern US who are being assessed with constructed response items and Balanced Assessment Items.
- We should form a subcommittee to work on responding to this. The committee will include Nicole Rigelman, Karen Higgins, Linda Samek, Klay Kruczek, and Laura Lethe. Karen Higgins and Linda Samek will schedule a meeting with Kathleen Vanderwall.

4. State Math Contest (Klay Kruczek)

- Meeting with host institutions and perhaps districts/high school teachers in June. Will change it from the 6/4/05 date to accommodate more folks' schedules – Monday, 4:00-7:00 on 6/13/05.