

MATH MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2005

Members Present: Deborah Roberg, Rebecca Corcoran, Barbara Rizzolo, Jean Dobson, Mary Ann Williams, Sal Guido, Terri Kupiec, Brent Kacur, Kathy Younger

The mathematics vertical team met on January 20, 2005 to continue the work of analyzing the K-12 mathematics program in the district. What follows is a summary of the major points of discussion.

1. It was suggested that the team consider the issue of students having sufficient time to master the material taught at each grade level.
2. Several concerns were raised regarding the math AIS program: How aligned is the math AIS with the Everyday Math program? What assessments are used to determine criteria for in and out of the program. This will become important when the district stops using the Terra Nova and the state begins testing in grades 3-8.
3. A concern was raised that too many of our students are requiring outside tutors in order to be successful.
4. It was suggested that teacher perception of need be one of the criteria for access to AIS math or extra help.
5. It was stressed that there needs to be coherence, continuity and consistency in the use of materials, teaching techniques, and assessment if the students are to have a guaranteed viable opportunity to master the district's curriculum.
6. It was suggested that there is a need for alignment of the elementary, middle school, and high school materials.
7. The group stressed the importance of looking at scheduling to ensure that students have the proper amount of time to learn the material at each grade level. Perhaps considering going to a departmental approach to curriculum delivery in the fifth grade. It was decided that it is important to review the programs of other districts that are enjoying some success with their mathematics program.
8. It was suggested that class size might be a factor in student achievement. The group agreed to look at some data regarding this issue. Marvin agreed to see if 4 years of class size data exists.
9. The group agreed that it is important to conduct an analysis of the last four years of test data to determine areas of strength and weakness. It is our hope to start on this on the upcoming conference day scheduled on February 18, 2005 .
10. It was suggested that elementary report cards should be aligned with the Everyday Math Program.
11. The group had a conversation regarding the use of calculators. When and for what should students use a calculator? What type of calculator should be used at which grade level? Four function, Scientific, Graphing. The group agreed that this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
12. What types of assistance are available to special education students and limited English proficient students?
13. Concern was raised regarding the problem of students lacking literacy skills. This often has an impact on student success in math.