

MATH MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 19, 2005

1:00pm – 2:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Roberg
Terri Kupiec

Barbara Rizzolo
Rebecca Corcoran

Jean Dobson
Katherine Younger

Marvin Kreps
Mary Ann Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sal Guido

Brent Kacur

PRIORITIZED BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend visitations to other Districts who are currently experiencing success with reaching State performance indicators. For example, how AIS services are provided, scheduling, after school and Saturday programs, teacher planning, allocation of teacher time, time on task, text books used, teacher/student ratios, grouping strategies.

RATIONALE:

This would save the District time and money, and benefit our students. Why re-invent the wheel, when we can see what is already working.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is absolutely essential that Professional Development days and ½ days be given to teachers to plan, integrate and monitor/adjust the curricula, in order to ensure that students are secure with/on the current performance indicators.

RATIONALE:

Elementary teachers deliver instruction in all curricular areas and it is imperative that teachers have common time in order to meet with one another as well as with all support service providers. These meetings would help to facilitate consistency in instruction as well as in monitoring student progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

We would like to consider a before or after school program for AIS students or borderline students. At the Middle/High School level, we recommend after school or Saturday prep classes for State exams.

RATIONALE:

Pull out programs are difficult for AIS students because of transition, and it impacts their performance in other curricular areas. At the Middle School, AIS is only offered every other day. The normal schedule does not allow for the 1-on-1 attention that these identified students need.

To the teacher, pull out time is counterproductive as it interferes with consistency of instruction. We need time to look at and apply results/ data, speak with Guidance counselors in the MS/ HS. We need to meet vertically. This would help reach our goal of 90% (3 + 4)

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that students experiencing difficulty, be given time and an additional opportunity to become secure (on/with) curricular goals. This could be accomplished with a summer school program.

RATIONALE:

Reinforcement over the summer can prevent regression. Teacher/pupil ration would be better. This would provide a more structured reinforcement of skills within our District.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend increasing instruction in Reading/Language (decoding, vocabulary development, comprehension, organizational and study skills, problem-solving skills) beyond the elementary school.

RATIONALE:

Poor reading skills= poor math skills. How we are asking students to demonstrate their mastery of math is contingent upon having proficient reading and writing skills.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that there be an additional, qualified math lab teacher to accommodate student schedules.

RATIONALE:

Current scheduling does not allow for all students who need math assistance. This is different from AIS services.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHARTS:

Regarding Professional Development days, the team would like to explore how other Districts utilize ½ days. Currently, we have two (2) ½ days in November, one (1) ½ day in April. The November and April dates are used in conjunction with Parent conferences. There is one (1) ½ day in May for Special Friends Day. It appears that one of the ½ days is unaccounted for.

- Allocate Conference Days for planning/ collaboration
- Before/After School, and Saturday Program to support borderline students
- Some students need extra time – perhaps summer school for students most at risk to not meet standard.
- Continue direct reading instruction beyond the early grades; possibly adding another program
- Need for a Math Lab teacher to accommodate students who require intensive math remediation
- Contact Shirley Alessi (EDM consultant) regarding EDM alignment
- Pursue EDM training for Kathy, Barbara, and Mary Ann