

SCIENCE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2005

9:30am-12:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carl Mayer
Dan O'Leary

Scott Stiverson
Doreen Giamportone

Bobbi Bloomer

Victor Britton

(present in AM only)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Laura Ebling

Doreen Giamportone

(absent in PM only)

BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed and reports were made from the “horizontal meetings” that preceded this

- Make science labs in the Elementary school more classroom- based instead of pull-out
- Try to arrange visits to other science programs at other schools to see what works
- Try to develop a science book library to help teachers develop new activities to support the science standards
- Focus in on reading skills to improve science performance. Do more content reading in science
- Continue the effort to develop a clear articulation of the K-12 science vocabulary which was worked on this afternoon
- Try to insure more class time for science, especially K-5 (difficult due to other demands and pull-outs)
- Continue to review and assess equipment inventory and needs
- Budgetary funding process has “short circuited” the need for more science supplies and equipment at CLS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Facilitate the identification and prioritization of needs for supplies and equipment in the K-12 science – especially at CLS
- Definite need for microscopes
- Provide Professional development time for grade levels to request assistance in particular topics from the Middle School, and High School. This will need to be better planned
- Time for representatives to visit other successful programs – it is unclear how we can implement this...
- Support the more science related field trips (such as, Mohonk Preserve and Morse Home) to provide more hands on science experiences for CLS students
- Provide time to teachers to continue to develop and enhance activities and assessments related to the K-12 curriculum

The afternoon was spent identifying vocabulary of science, and creating a “K-12 science word matrix.” The goals of this are to give all science teachers an overview of how we are developing/ honing concepts and understanding in the area of science. Concrete “products” of this effort will be vocabulary cards that correspond with a grade level and a listing of Elementary, Middle, and commencement definitions of the words.

This is still a work in progress. It is scheduled to continue at the Elementary level, with Scott Stiverson spear-heading this effort. It will then be passed on to Carl Mayer in the Middle School, and finally, to Victor Britton at the High School level.

