

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~Henry Ford

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The "No Man is an Island" Issue

Sept. 28, 2009

First Meeting of SAS Leadership Team

The first meeting of the SAS Leadership Team happened on Thursday, Sept. 17. Members in attendance were Rosemary Perez (CSEA), Bob Wilde (SVFT), Kim Roy (Instructor in ESD/CLP), Kathleen Slattery (Instructor in ESL), Karen Estes (Instructor in Parent Ed.), Gina Muller (AD), Bob (Director), Janne Bennick (Acting Coordinator ESD/CLP), Yvonne Ricketts (Coordinator, Parent Ed.). Bonnie Quan and Rita Carratello were also in attendance.

In this initial meeting we talked about the purpose of the group and we established norms. I talked about the value of "participatory decision-making" and how that can contribute to creating the environment of a professional learning community. I also avowed that "imposing or directing" such shared governance was contradictory, and proposed that this be an experiment. I suggested that at the end of this school year we review whether such a group as this was necessary or useful at all. I described what I saw as one of its major benefits, to represent varied voices. I said I thought the role of the leadership team members was first to take and receive information to a constituency and to represent its interests.

After some discussion we arrived at the following norms:

Meetings start and end on time.

Agendas are produced in advance of the meetings and reviewed and approved at the beginning of the meeting.

We assume and share roles as facilitator, timekeeper, recorder, reflector.

One person speaks at a time and is called on by the facilitator.

We will make decisions by consensus, but majority will rule if timely consensus is not reached; conflicts will be resolved directly with the persons in conflict.

We will keep "a parking lot" for future discussion.

We presume good intentions.

That was all about process. There was, even at the first meeting, substantial discussion about decisions and practices in the school. We talked about the impact of the district's new calendar, including ending a week earlier in June and the changed dates of winter break.

Gina talked about the plans for our Oct. 23 Prof Development Day (it will happen), and we suggested that a similar day, or a work day, could happen in Spring. Yvonne talked about recruiting service learning students from CSUMB (we now have four). Karen talked about our coordinated Fund Development effort, including pursuing our own distinct non-profit org. Janne helped us briefly look at some budget numbers, and there was a request for further clarification at the next meeting. We also agreed that at the next meeting it would be good to explore dates for the Spring workday, and discuss the merits and disadvantages of running summer school at all in 2010. There was general agreement that, if we are not having summer school, knowing sooner would help.

All in all a good beginning. The next meeting in Thursday, Oct. 15. The meetings will be as participatory and representative as you want. If there are issues you want addressed, talk to one of the team members. We agreed that agendas and minutes of the meetings would be kept in a notebook in the staff room, available to all and any.

Calendar

Oct. 7 SAS Job Fair

Oct. 13 - Community Advisory Council

Oct. 15—Leadership Team

Oct. 23—Professional Development Day

Nov. 11—Veterans' Day

Dec. 18—Last day of Fall Term