

Orem Elementary School Community Council

Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2014
10:45am

Attendance:

Anna Steadman-Chair
Becky Smith-parent
Melanie Holdaway-parent
Cathy Ambrose-Secretary
Laura Giles - teacher
Rachelle Bolingbroke-Principal
Teresa Whitehead-teacher
Tim Stay-parent
Deah Daughters - teacher
Sandi West-teacher
Sherri McKell - parent
Peter Christensen - parent
Amy Chariton - parent

Brad Wilcox workshop in Mrs. West's class

Writing hurdles:

Problem one. Too much information for students to break down. Brad read a short summary from world book student encyclopedia. This delivers the important information and eliminates extra overwhelming data.

Questions to be asked:

Who, what, when, where, why, how.

Broke class into discussion groups. Instead of numbering off to create groups, he assigned one as a who, one as a what, one as a where, etc. After the short discussion, he chose one spokesperson to come up with one sentence (or for bigger projects, one paragraph) to answer the identifiers.

He always said all the identifiers in sequence, even when he was discussing just one of them. "Who, what, when, where now WHY. What is our why?"

After he gave directions, he asked the kids to do a physical action to reinforce what was asked. "Point to where your group will meet" Raise your hand if you are a "who", etc. He also had the class recite all drafts out loud together.

After each draft he would say and encourage the class to say it with him: That was good, but (dramatic pause), it can be better. And would continue to edit it for flow, chronology, redundancy, punctuation, etc.

Each child was assigned a number for each one of the sentences. They wrote their sentence and then to add an illustration. He would then walk around and edit each one (correcting) as the students were busy working.

1st grade return and report

They were able to complete almost all their objectives during requested paid team corroboration time. Finished pacing guide for all except writing (finished math, word work, science, and social studies). Still need to do assessments and forms for rubrics and align with core and report cards

Requesting 2 more days to finish this up.

Motion to fund up to \$800: Tim Stay

Second: Becky Smith

Voting unanimous

When asked how these planning days were helping, the team replied that they feel this is making a difference, not losing children like scattering ping pong balls. They know how every child is doing.

Team Leader Conference:

Principal Bolingbroke reviewed training with Mike Maddos. Fourth grade teacher, Steve Herrmann, demonstrated effective use of Mastery Connect.

Orem Elementary has had other schools come to learn Mastery Connect from us. It's exciting to see how everything is improving.

Writing Conference in SLC: Laura Giles appreciated the collaboration and writing time.

Deah Daughters appreciated learning how to help kids think deeper.

Laura Giles liked the classes regarding how to integrate technology with writing because we need help with that.

Teresa Whitehead said there were lots of good ideas to encourage reading and writing. Her goal is to help kids become readers.

Laura: If they could get tier one structured better, less intervention will be needed later on. They are also working on comprehension in their reading.

Rachelle said every grade represented.

School improvement goal 2014-2015: Anna Steadman

We will modify this to use common assessments and DRA to evaluate our progress because of the SAGE transition. SAGE this year will be used as a baseline, but some portions of the test will be used for assessing our goal.

Tim asked teachers feedback for effectiveness of the goal. General consensus from teachers is that it is good.

Peter questioned is their way to evaluate how the goal in the past might have already been naturally realized - if the goal really helps. Tim explained that data indicates it helps kids. Typically they don't catch up on their own.

Rachelle explained that although it is a school goal, the teachers and teams modify it so it applies it better to their grade.

Motion to approve the modified school improvement goal: Anna Steadman

Second by Tim Stay

Voting unanimous

SAGE: Principal Bolingbroke will hold a SAGE test Q&A during parent teacher conference on April 3rd.

STEM: Student showcase will be on April 1st. Top STEM teams compete at district. Details TBA.

Proposals: Laura Giles

Arts express conference at BYU

Integrated arts improve reading and writing

Motion to approve up to \$450, Peter Christensen

Second: Amy Charlton

Voting unanimous

SECOND GRADE TEAM Will present return and report next month

And request 1 more day because they want to focus on writing rubrics and assessments.

Motion for approval of up to \$400: Tim Stay

Second: Peter Christensen

Voting unanimous

Adjourned 12:20

Next meeting: April 15 at 10:45am