

Blue Ribbon Mathematics Partnership Meeting Notes

In affiliation with Doddridge, Hampshire, Harrison, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Upshur and Wood Counties, Fairmont State College, West Virginia University - Morgantown, and West Virginia University-Parkersburg

3/29/06

Present: Brenda Flanigan, Debby Grimes, Lisa Hileman, Bobbie Gelpi, Susan Goodwin, Boyd Holtan, Traci Knight, Duane Lewis, Kathy Marino, Allen Meck, Angie Morgan, Holly Plunkett, Laura Pyzdrowski, Cheryl Reger, Craig Shanholtzer, Ye Sun, Donna Trulik,

1. The Blue Ribbon Probability and Data Analysis grant was funded (\$48,879). The initial week workshop will be held August 7 - 11 with 3 follow-ups sessions to be held through spring 2007. Applications and Flyers will be posted on the Web Page. First deadline is set for May 12 for applicants from the Blue Ribbon Counties. After that date, applicants will be accepted in the order received. Everyone is asked to help recruit participants. A one-day NASA mini grant was written by Drs. Melanie and Fred Butler to supplement the probability workshop. A consultant such as Landy Gumbald will be recruited if funds are secured (Late news is that the NASA proposal was not funded.)

2. There is a proposal to revitalize the Master's Degree Program in Mathematics Education offered through the Mathematics Department at WVU. The following were topics of conversation:

- Will this program include examinations or research to graduate?
- Including National Board Certification content/help into the program might help entice people to enroll in courses.
- There should be topics included to address special populations (learning disabilities, gifted, ...), diagnosis and remediation strategies, developmental education, and adult learners.
- Will courses be asynchronous web courses?
- Will groups go through in cohorts? — Perhaps allow individuals to enter in any given year by making sure pre-requisites allow for different entry points into the program – this was a drawback of ACCLAIM.
- It would be good to use some synchronous time in classes where there is two-way face to face opportunity.
- How will the on-campus requirement work?
- 2-3 classes is too much to do in a semester when working. Offer more of the classes in the summer.
- Masters program should probably address the various ways to utilize technology in math education. We won't use what we don't understand
- The masters students who have been teaching for a few years need to have a little mathematics overlap to get them underway. Even though some of them may have studied a same topic as an undergraduate, they are not now the same person and learner that they were then. They often see things and learn differently after they have had some teaching experience.
- it seems like the integration of the NBC could help keep the program in balance.
- On-line possibilities seem like a way to make it easier to get out to the teachers - of course, that means being careful with quality.

3. The development of a certification for an Elementary Math Specialist was briefly discussed. It was strongly suggested that this program should have emphasis on turning out people who REALLY have solid understanding of critical areas like fractions. Not only would their own students benefit - but these people should be a resource for their schools. This program could be offered as a Master's Program for teachers certified in K-6. There will be a meeting on Friday, June 23 at the Caperton Center in Clarksburg to discuss this in more detail. Anyone interested in attending should contact Susan Goodwin - sgoodwin@fairmontstate.edu

4. Brenda Flanigan will be unable to host the Blue Ribbon meetings next year at Bridgeport High School. Suggestions for meeting places were Bridgeport Middle School, the Caperton Center, and Liberty High School. Offers have been made in the past by the NASA center in Fairmont. Laura will look into the possible locations and let the group know before our first meeting next year. Dates for the Fall 2006 meetings are September 20 and October 25.

At 5:00: Duane Lewis from EdVenture discussed the TIME KITS used in the Engineers of Tomorrow project. Duane will send information to the Blue Ribbon Committee as more spots for professional development become available.