

Consortium Minutes September 19, 2003

Welcome: Ted Kelly welcomed everyone to the first consortium of the school year. He reflected back on his 16 years of attending consortium. He said there were several things that are reflective of our time today with computers, cell phones, etc. He said our organization has changed over the years. The vision has changed and has improved. It is not one person, but a group of people with a central purpose. He sees many extraordinary things from the people who feel they are just doing ordinary things.

Folder Browse-by: Jerry Christensen. Jerry welcomed everyone also. He introduced those who were new to consortium. Patty Haney, Davis; Elaine Mullins, CUES; David Forbush, USU; Gordon Gibb, BYU; Kathy French, UVSC; Cindy Grace, Alpine; Linda Rutledge, USDB; Pat Bradson, Carbon District. Cheryl Hostetter introduced Pat Boyer from Sopris West. Jerry went through the folder.

Michael Herbert introduced the topics for the Utah Special Educator. He talked about inspiration for this year... "What Works." Michael recognized those who contributed to this issue with a t-shirt and a certificate.

Suraj Syal talked about the response to the request for ELL interpreters. There will be an interpreter database. He asked for districts to share their forms in different languages. He asked for people to please respond to the request to fill out forms online or mail to our office.

Leadership Report: Bruce Schroeder facilitated. Procedural safeguards have been translated into three additional languages and are on the USOE web site. SIG project is in the last year of their grant. They have some significant projects in mind. Cherlyn Creer, with Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, is working to update the Technical Assistance Manual for Serving Students with Health Care Needs by early November. Personnel development is always looking for ways to improve. Bruce introduced several higher education people: Margaret Dixen, SUU; Jack Mayhew, Weber State; Peter Ingle, Westminster; Jennie Gibson, Parent Center; Kim Morris, Baby Watch.

Jim Curtice thanked everyone who sent names in for this year's mentor track. He also invited anyone interested in hearing Anita Archer present in October at the Mentor Academy, to let him know and they will be welcome to attend.

Presentation: Alan Hofmeister "Essential Components for Effective Reading Instruction" – (The federal Reading First program for K-3). There is a grant established to do the Reading First project. It goes to Title 1 schools and will probably double the amount of money available. These programs are basically researched (SBRR). There is a very specific definition of the curriculum. There are five essentials to this program: 1) phonemic awareness, 2) phonics, 3) fluency, 4) text comprehension, and 5) vocabulary. Their intent is to maximize student learning by specific suggestions from the program. Reading alignment will affect the entire school. Federal monitoring will be in place. There is a high amount of accountability involved in this program, (Alan Hofmeister's presentation will be available on our web site – www.updc.org or more information in the September issue, p. 18, of the Utah Special Educator.)

Presentation: Holly Peterson from Cache School District "How to Improve Reading Skills in Your District Without Inflicting Pain on Oneself" - In 1996 Cache district adopted the policy to have all students at grade level for reading by grade 3. This, along

with the idea that all students can learn to read, has led to this success. They did a lot of research into what was happening in their district before they went ahead with their plans. They worked toward building learning communities throughout their district. This provided a great deal of grade level communication. The intent was to build a consensus on solutions that would build a common philosophy. Teacher and principal professional development became a priority, with the focus on building instructional leaders. There are school level meetings to help build understanding within the school community. Principals are encouraged to get into the classrooms to see what is happening and to be a part of direct instruction in their schools. Their slogan is "Measure what matters" (Mike Schmoker). Identifying problem readers early is crucial (end of kindergarten/beginning of first grade), so that appropriate interventions and helps can be put in place. The district has made every effort to respond to the requests of teachers in the district. If programs are producing measurable student gains, it will continue to be used. Looking at CRTs has provided the district with the names of those students who are not reading at grade level. Allow adequate time for changes to take place. This process during the last seven years has provided a very different type of program than they started with. Collaboration has been a major force for this change.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

DiAnne Adams	Ginny Eggen	Paula	Linda Otte
Vicki Ahlstrom	Bruce Farrer	Kashiwaeda	A. J. Pease
Gail Albrecht	Monica Ferguson	Taryn Kay	Hollie Pettersson
Richard Albrecht	David Forbush	Ted Kelly	Tony Powell
Jill Allgaier	Darla Fowers	Karen Kowalski	Colleen Riley
Kirk Allen	Pat Frandsen	Julie Landeen	Lee Robinson
John Ballard	Kathy French	Lorna Larsen	Linda Rutledge
Pat Beckman	Gordon Gibb	Anna LeFevre	Bruce Schroeder
Loydene Berg	Jennie Gibson	Launa Macomber	Cheryl Smith
Brenda Broadbent	Jane Golightly	Jack Mayhew	Amy Spencer
Ryan Burke	Cindy Grace	Kathryn McCarrie	Vonnie Steele
Wendy Carver	Barbara Graves	Karen Medlin	Nicole Suchey
Dawnne Casey	Deb Griffin	Ann Miller	Suraj Syal
Jerry Christensen	Anna Lee Hansen	Terri Mitchell	David Taylor
Kay Clark	Patti Haning	Julie Mootz	Jocelyn Taylor
Cheri Cornaby	Jacki Harris	Kim Morris	Vickie Todd
Susan Cowan	Michael Herbert	Elaine Mullins	Beth Usui
Cheralyn Creer	Mike Hicks	Calvin Newbold	Mary Vaughan
Jim Curtice	Cheryl Hunt	Linda Nicholes	Tom Walker
Margaret Dixon	Peter Ingle	PamNorton	Jan Whimpey
Tony Done	Kathleen Johnson	Deanna Nyman	Laraine Whitear
Sally Dyches	Nancy Jones	Lowell Oswald	

Minutes by Cheryl Smith