

**Strategic Plan Goal Committee #3 Minutes
December 9, 2008
DSS Building**

Strategic Plan Goal #3: *Our students are prepared for a multicultural and multilingual world*

I. Welcome & Introductions

Those in attendance: Matt Murray, Gary St. George, Jerry Hutchins, Marla Villaviencio, Shawn Hovey, Lisa Thilmont, Molly Michalec, Darlene Kisler, Tod Gunter, Gilberto Lara, Brian Sturges

A. Review of November 9, 2008 minutes

B. Direction for the meeting

Focus of today's meeting is to get into our 5 sub groups and share the information we have. Today we will get a clearer picture of what is happening within each group. We have a very small group today so we are going to talk as a single group about each task. The sub-groups should be able to provide more of a direction after meeting together at another meeting.

II. Clarifying Focus Areas (group work)

A. Shawn presented information on content and linguistics from Fairfax County School District and different locations. The information was tied directly into the curriculum. Flex programs for after school programs, which are more outside of regular curriculum. Found that all of these places required a foreign language as a requirement for graduation. There is specific training for teachers but was unsure where it came from. Diversity training, how do we teach it? Now in the schools Tod said, "We are teaching diversity activities. Need to focus on how to continue this with intent for it to be a part of a regular curriculum. There is now great impact with the DI students at the Middle School. Seeing these students keeping together as a group instead of division."

B. *Do we want to adopt this now as something we should present to the Board? Group feels "YES" cultural education should be presented as a need in the district.* Consensus is that we start with after school programs.

- C. Lisa found information on after school programs on heritage language. What is heritage language? It is teaching culture in a student's native language. There are cultural arts programs as after school programs. Example: Learning about a different culture like Africa. Parents would be able to attend as well as their students. Using cross-cultural program that would help children meld into other cultures. There is a feeling that maybe this would be a good fit at the elementary level, and at the middle school. There was discussion that any thing that is academic based offered at the middle school has not been received really well. The marketing would be to find the right niche, because there are so many offerings already. Feelings were that at the elementary level there would not be a need to recruit because they are in need of after school activities now.
- D. Gilberto talked about having cultural boxes in all the schools. This might be a way to teach the country a year concept.
- E. Shawn mentioned that discovery video screen has an atlas and world geography screen. I-earn as a way to teach information.
- F. Brian spoke about overnight trips for kids on the Payette River. Getting kids out on a day of bonding. Yellowstone and Teton national parks immersion education days for students and teachers. There are opportunities in Peru and on the Amazon and many other locations to do educational immersion classes or tours. Many focus on heritage. There can be many problems with out of country trips. Thinking maybe to do this as a type of field trip that grows each year as part of the traveling cultural exchange, or live it learn it concept.
- G. Molly brought information on global connections and exchanges. This is a web-based exchange program, with the end being a face-to-face meeting. It looks like anyone in the country can join. There are many exchange programs out there. A group program center for cultural exchange for the school to school. Your school can host a group of students in the fall then they host you in the spring via the internet. *The group was directed to find out more information on who has been able to do these kinds of things, and how the schools or district policy allows this to happen. Can we find through the community people who might have resources to other countries.*
- H. Having a volunteer for each grade level or paraprofessional in charge of the computer lab that could get the pen pal program going. Thoughts of using web-cams to communicate in the classroom and with others around the world.

III. Focus Area Summary

Cultural Education

1. Electronic exchange
Jerry
2. Actual exchange
Matt, Tod
3. Culture boxes
Molly, Lisa

Lang/Culture Course

1. After school
Lisa, Gary
2. Content area instruction
Shawn
3. Chicano studies
Gilberto, Raul
4. Teacher immersion/foreign
Brian, Molly
5. Specific language instruction
Marla
6. Specific for native speakers
Gilberto, Raul

With Both categories being connected to curriculum

IV. Next Steps

- A. People assigned to the focus area groups will do more research.

**Next Meeting date: February 3, 2008 from 3:45 PM – 5:45 PM
at the District Office in the Board Room**