

## **PCTE**

**March 8, 2012**

**7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

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**Present:** David Andrews, William Covino, Jody Daughtry, Carol Fry Bohlin, Luz Gonzalez, Ken Magdaleno, Cecilia Massetti, Sheri Nakashima, Lisa Nyberg, Vida Samiian, Rich Smith, Colleen Torgerson, and Larry Wilder.

Dr. William Covino convened the meeting.

Larry Wilder motioned to approve the minutes. December 8, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

#### **Advancing Student Interest in Science and Mathematics**

The Mathematics and Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI) is sponsoring middle school science and mathematics methods courses designed for student or teachers desiring a Foundational-Level Math or Science single subject credential. CSET workshops in science and mathematics are also being offered.

MSTI is paying the registration fee for 20 pre-service teachers to attend the STEMposium event to be held at CART on Saturday, March 10.

The San Joaquin Valley Mathematics Project (SJVMP) held their annual Winter Leadership Retreat which was attended by over 50 teachers and administrators. The keynote speaker was Sue Gendron, policy coordinator for the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. Video of her presentation is available at: <http://sjvmathproject.ning.com/> under “videos”.

Ginny Boris is coordinating a CCSS workshop tomorrow and video will also be available on the website listed above.

Fresno Unified and KSOEHD administrators met to discuss increasing student achievement in math and science in grades 4-8 through teacher preparation. Looking at a possible math/science co-hort.

A Fresno State/STEM website is under construction to be used as a promotional tool. The site can be viewed at a future PCTE meeting.

There are a number of undergrad students attending science and math labs relevant to research. NOYCE scholars program will be evaluated and looking forward to the outcomes of that study. There are plans to submit a large science/math partnership proposal that will engage districts and focus on access to science/math learning and ELL and directly addressing CCSS. We have been asked to submit another three-year series for NOYCE, which we have led for the past three years. We will be working with FUSD and the Science and Mathematics Education Center.

Lisa Nyberg is attending the STEM K-8 conference in May and there may be some resources available to share from that conference. She notified the group about Disney's Science Challenge (Language Arts, Science, Math & Technology).

Last weekend the Science Olympiad was held on campus and University High school won the regional 1st place.

### **Additional Items**

#### *Early Start*

Fresno State is beginning the Early Start Program this summer. This is a CSU Board of Trustees directive where all remedial math and English students, must get an "early start" in the summer. Early Start is at least a one unit course in math and science. We are expecting 1,200-1,500 students in this program. We are continuing to develop courses/experiences at the high school senior level so students won't need this remediation. If they do not complete the summer experience, they will not be allowed to enroll in the fall semester. Lottery funding will be provided and the normal price will be \$182. Local school districts are being evaluated to possibly offer the courses and many CSU campuses will have online options. These students are already enrolled/admitted to Fresno State, so there is a direct way to connect with them.

Rich Smith commented that they (Sanger Unified) are very interested in the results of Early Start. Dr. Covino provided that the current requirement is the student starts in remediation but they would still be in remedial courses after Early Start such as Math 4R. Larry Wilder included that the high school exit exam is only written at an eighth grade level. Colleen Torgerson commented that part of the English level remediation is the ERWC test. The high schools feel a great deal of blame for the remediation needs but they are unclear of what needs to be done to fix the issue. Teacher preparation across the country varies widely.

Colleen is on the state-wide panel for teacher preparation and they are looking at whether or not they should break down the grade levels studied by teaching candidates. Is there any correlation between what it takes to be a teacher and what is required for them to teach. The expectations of a new teachers is much higher than it used to be.

#### *High School Retention (Drop-out Rates)*

Luz Gonzales is on a committee convened by Juan Arambula – they arrived at the conclusion that the drop-out issue is a community issue – not just an issue for the schools. The committee is starting to frame recommendations and public forums will be available in the future. Last year alone, 517 more seniors graduated than the previous year. Some of the items focused on involved teacher stability; connecting the curriculum to the students. She shared a personal story regarding student interest. Ken Magdaleno referenced author Russell Rumberger's book, "Dropping Out". \$245 million in revenues are lost when students don't graduate in Fresno County. Luz provided that there are a portion of students who are vocational bound – and these are the students dropping out.

There was continued discussion about relating the subject matter to the personal interest and experiences of students. The "norms" are different among different cultures. Lisa Nyberg said

learning could be more purposeful (physical, musical, etc..) it doesn't have to be strictly linguistic and mathematical.

**Items to Consider for Future Meetings**

- No suggestions for locations.
- Dropout rates – make a standing item.
- Career technical education – suggested by Carol Fry Bohlin. Colleen Torgerson will provide information.
- Federal legislation changes regarding teacher retirement and social security – suggested by Larry Wilder.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.