

**President's Commission on Teacher Education**  
**September 16, 2010**  
**7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Fresno County Office of Education - Scout Island**  
**Meeting Notes**

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**Present:** David Andrews, Paul Beare, Carol Fry Bohlin, David Cash, William Covino, Diana Dille, Ginny Hovsepian, Marc Johnson, Ken Magdaleno, Jim Marshall, Sherri Nakashima, Lisa Nyberg, Larry Powell, Andrew Rogerson, Rich Smith, Janell Tatsumura, Colleen Torgerson, and John Welty.

**Guests:** Stephen Bock (FCOE); Janet Kliegl and Virgel Hammonds (Lindsay Unified School District).

I. **Welcome – Larry Powell**

Description of Scout Island by Steve Bock, Director of the facility. FCOE purchased the property with the intent of it being used as an educational facility. Standards-based content lessons in environmental education, science, and social science. The facility hosts single-day fieldtrips, multi-day fifth and sixth grade day camps, off-site expeditions, service-learning projects, confidence, initiative, and teambuilding exercises. Effective use of Technology, Education and the Environment Initiative.

II. **Approval of June Meeting Notes** - Changes were made to Section III to include Carol Fry Bohlin's name as well as provide further detail in the paragraph. Colleen Torgerson suggested an omission of Frank Silvestro's name from the notes as he was absent.

III. **Lindsay Unified School District Reaching Competency in Standards – Janet Kliegl (Superintendent) & Virgil Hammonds (Principal of Lindsay High School) (powerpoint & handout).**

Nine out of the last 11 valedictorians have started post-secondary education in remedial courses. Approx. 52% of seniors continue on to junior college upon graduation.

**What is performance based system?** – students learn in different ways and different time frames, developed measurement topics – much more rigorous content, assessments for master teachers, learners must demonstrate mastery of content, track own progress, then move forward. Learner results available 24/7, master schedule based on learner needs, no traditional grades – levels of performance (must achieve a level 3 out of a possible 4 to move forward).

**Our First Year** (2009-2010) Began with ninth graders, much more difficult content, aligned to CA standards, commitment of high expectations – 20% learned required content by April – 50% learned required content by June – Parent re-education.

**Challenges** – shift of school culture, student centered classrooms, develop independent learners, teacher's role changed – now called "learning facilitators", learner ownership, master schedule – based on where are the kids now and what do

they need, and teaching credentials. *How do we empower our kids to take more control of their learning?*

**Promises** – learners are more engaged, learners are more focused, higher levels of academic achievement, more accountability, improves learners options. GPA's can be determined easily as their grading scale is 1-4. Although, they hope their measurement of a “3” is a stronger grade than a 3.0 GPA. So at minimum, all of their grads achieve a 3. 65% of their students start as ELL students. Lindsay High School has 1,100 students enrolled. Is there an issue of tracking? Students track themselves. Is there ever a time of heterogeneous grouping? Yes, in instances where a class only has one teacher.

IV. **Advancing Student Interest in Science and Mathematics** – *Carol Fry Bohlin (two handouts)*

The Mathematics and Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI) would like to announce the availability of a series of mathematics and science content workshops and teaching methods courses for prospective teachers of mathematics and science at the middle and/or high school levels. These workshops and courses are particularly appropriate for those currently holding or pursuing a multiple subject credential, although single subject credential holders may be interested in adding an authorization to their current credential.

David Andrews: CTC review board said we met all standards for single subject science. NOYCE Fellow teaching program – targeting 18 and there are 17 in the program now. NOYCE II now has 32 in the program. Over 1,000 students came to campus sponsored by the Natural Science Club; National Science Foundation was on campus last spring, and last summer we had 10 teachers attend NASA 8-10 week program. NSF is currently working on a \$10 million grant.

V. **Race to the Top: How can we work together to promote RttT goals without external funds?** – *Rich Smit and Jim Marshall*

*Handout - RttT Application Overview & Project Team Ownership and Participating Institution of Higher Education (IHE) MOU.*

Would the method of evaluating teachers change significantly? Yes, and that was an issue with many bargaining units. David Cash included that this is a comprehensive committee that has revamped their teaching evaluation system. There's really no turning back at this point, and people will wonder how we ever evaluated teachers without looking at their student involvement. Jim Marshall directed attention to some bulleted points in MOU that we can be doing right now.

Dr. Welty asked if there are gaps we should be thinking about. We should put our emphasis on data analysis and collaboration. Larry Powell commented that BITSA programs throughout the state are looking at this closely. Jim Marshall said they did a brief analysis of our SSP and looking at general catalogs, some courses haven't changed in 50 years. David Cash said Sanger is a national leader. He hopes Fresno State is looking at core standards. Diana Dille indicated that some of this is showing up in the interview process.

David Cash stated one of the key components was the relationship with iAchieves which was an integral part of the initial RtT application. Lisa Nyberg commented that Sanger has some really great collaboration going on. “I realize that I don’t teach content anymore, I teach children,” quote from a teacher in Sanger per Rich Smith. David Cash provided the core governing council will stay in place and a press conference in October will announce some major funding to California from private funds. Carol Fry Bohlin asked if there are other partnerships we can explore to enhance the STEM. CART and online learning are good examples of leadership Lisa Nyberg – we need not just collaborate at the college level...it needs to start at kindergarten. David Cash commented that the collaborations amongst the districts will be very important.

VI. **Future meeting suggestions**

- CART
- Multiple Pathways (Colleen Torgerson)

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.