



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Council

Meeting Notes

September 29, 2015

Board Room 2

3:30-5:00

1. Welcome

Dr. Hansen welcomed the group. She thanked the returning members for their continued dedication to OUSD and welcomed the new members. Members then went around the table and introduced themselves.

2. Review of Norms

Lisa Green led the group in a review of the norms.

3. Curriculum Pilot Review

Bree Tippetts, Orange Pre-K Program Coordinator, and Janice Howver, Orange Pre-K teacher, presented a review of a curriculum, "Opening the World of Learning (OWL)", that Orange Pre-K has been piloting for the last two years. Orange Pre-K services students ages 3-5 with identified mild to moderate and moderate to severe disabilities. Orange Pre-K also implements a Peer Role Model Program, in their mild to moderate classes, which consists of same aged peers from the community who do not have identified disabilities. Prior to piloting this program Orange Pre-K did not have a comprehensive curriculum that aligned to the Preschool Learning Foundations.

"Opening the World of Learning (OWL)" is a comprehensive general education curriculum that covers all domains of early learning.

- Provides guidance for teachers with a variety of materials to implement thematically organized units.
- Develops language and literacy skills through rich, integrated content in all domains of learning
- Incorporates favorite non-fiction and fiction children books, songs, and poems
- Provides a comprehensive curriculum for full and half-day program format options.
- Supports teachers to individualize instruction by providing an ongoing assessment tool.

The council asked follow-up questions, which Bree and Janice answered. Bree then asked the Council to recommend this program to the board for consideration of approval. The Council voted unanimously to recommend this program to the board.

4. Study Session – A Deeper Look into AVID Elementary & AVID Excel

Dee Petersen, TOSA, and Kelly Acosta, Taft 6th grade teacher, presented on the implementation of AVID Elementary in 10 of the district's schools in mostly 6th grade but some 5th grade classrooms. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and its purpose is to prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society. They shared how AVID is embedded into daily instruction and promotes learning through WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading). Some of the strategies that are used to engage students were also discussed, including philosophical chairs, 2 or 3 column notes, and fish bowl. They also mentioned how AVID really focuses on guiding students to realize that they have a voice. There was a lot of interest expressed amongst the Council about the possibility of expanding AVID to more schools and more grade levels.

Next Kristi Dorf, English Learner Instructional Specialist, Susan Aiken-Pease, AVID EXCEL Teacher, and Kristine Chu, also an AVID EXCEL teacher, discussed the AVID EXCEL 8th grade pilot at Portola Middle School. The difference between the AVID EXCEL Elective and the AVID Elective programs was reviewed. AVID EXCEL is designed to help Long-Term English Learners acquire the language skills that will enable them to succeed in rigorous coursework. Both programs help prepare students for college readiness and success in a global economy. Family Connections is also a key component of AVID EXCEL. The presenters discussed how AVID EXCEL is helping their students to increase their academic language in all domains – reading, writing, listening, and speaking – while also developing self-determination, leadership skills, and motivation. There was a lot of interest expressed in this program by Council members. Some of the questions involved whether AVID EXCEL could be expanded to 6th and 7th grades, as well as high school.

5. Closing

Lisa Green thanked the council for their commitment and dedication. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.