

K-2 PLC Minutes
Mendenhall River Community School
January 10, 2012

In Attendance: Lucy Potter, Jim Hicks, Lisa Currier, MaryAnn Love, Ruth Baumgartner, Natalie Morgen, Amy Ballard, Erin Carriker, Jane Canaday, Maria Christenson, Victoria Haight, Arlea Harris, Katie Laliberte, Chris Swanson and Laura Mulgrew

Agenda

1. Computer Math Survey
2. Technology Discussion PLC vs. Mac etc.
3. Walk to Read

Computer Math Survey

Teachers and staff took a survey about math in the computer lab.

Technology Discussion

Research was brought to compare what type of computer would be best (PC vs. Mac). People buy PC because they are cheaper, but have lots of issues (viruses). PC are preferred by people who like to write computer programs, not typically used in education. Desktops are becoming obsolete. There is not enough support from techs especially since three schools just got all new Mac equipment. Basically if people can afford to buy Macs they do, but if they can't they buy PC. Our tech informed us that if you buy PC computers the software doesn't work with what we have. So then we would have additional cost having to buy programs that are compatible with pc. Tech people at the high school have said how sturdy and stable the Mac laptops are as they witness how rough high school kids are with them. Our thoughts are that pc could be cheaper but in the long run they're not. Apples were made as a k-12 teaching tool (Easy for students and educators to use). We also discussed if ipads were a priority. We would need money to buy apps and it wouldn't work for primary/intermediate to use same cart. We decided to try and get a grant for ipads and speak to PTO about how to order them for classrooms. We are concerned about getting new equipment and having the same connectivity problems as our school's connectivity has not been upgraded. Will this issue be addressed with this grant? We thought this was more of a district issue, as we must take attendance, do report cards and other required things with our technology and don't have the bandwidth to do these required things. We wondered what the districts technology vision was as not all schools have the same equipment (Mac/PC) yet the latest schools to get equipment purchased Macs. We voted if we preferred Mac or PC. Everyone agreed Mac. Then we voted who would prefer laptop or desktop. 10 staff voted in favor of laptops; 2 desktops.

Walk to Read

CONCERNS

- Not enough time for whole group
- It's piecemeal-Don't know they are getting everything they need
- No flexibility (Whole group lessons goes longer...and kids show up)
- We don't have enough adults to make it work (Start with 24 kids end with 22)
- Can't make it work with all the groups
- Not sure if supplementing or introducing?
- Not enough instructors/Groups are too large
- Not all w2r teachers/staff are involved in data meetings
- Transitions are HUGE (Lose lot of time)!
- Kinder classes are too full (Won't be able to participate in W2R)
- Conferences (Hard to share info.)
- Some were too general and were an overall summary
- Need 90 minutes for special education kids

Ideas/Solutions

- Long range planning
- Tentative monthly plan
- Make Walk to Read 2-5 grade
- Continue write-ups for parents
- 4 days a week
- Data days are also instructional planning to communicate with colleagues
- Sending low/sped kids for 90 minutes
- Pinpoint area of the curriculum
- Move planning/data day from Special Ed planning day
- Get more bodies