

4/5 PLC Minutes
Mendenhall River Community School
December 13, 2010

Facilitator: Adam Berkey

Note Taker: Eliza Lende

Attendance: Berkey, Swingle, Witt, Janelle, Lende, Ballard, Wright, Parish, Kent, Seibel, Blackwell, Winn, Iliev

Agenda:

1. Review Focus Trait: Ideas/Organization
2. New Business:
 Next Focus Trait: Sentence Fluency
 PBIS

Ideas/organization trait:

Group dialogue about what we are doing, what is working and what questions/concerns remain.

- Suggestions discussed in terms of organization and ideas include prompted writing journals as a tool for ongoing portfolio assessment. Also mentioned was the use of such journals for student editing lessons.
- A general discussion followed about how to encourage writers to develop ideas and narrow down their ideas, especially for aspiring non-fiction writers. Group brainstorming solutions included idea recipe cards; the use of a simple mountain graphic organizer; oral retells of story from organizers before writing; two adjectives, 2 nouns and a verb idea generator for prompted writing. A suggestion was made to consult required writing forms from continuum to use as a reference when develop prompts and considering different writing genres.
- Ways of improving student performance was another topic that was discussed. Group ideas included using exemplars from student writing to have students review and score. Also, GLAD strategies were mentioned as a method for introducing and exploring cooperative paragraphs. Other graphic organizers and resources circulated around the room for teachers to peruse as well.
- An ongoing concern with developing 6-trait writing in the intermediate grades is lack of time.

New Business:

- In the next PLC meeting in January, our trait focus will be sentence fluency. Members will try to focus instruction until then on ways of developing and improving sentence fluency in their writers.
- Leadership committee members gave an overview of PBIS, which included highlighting some of the successes that Riverbend has had with the program.
- Table discussion led to conversations about school pride and ownership among our students. School songs for assemblies were mentioned as a way to help unify our students and boost school spirit. Another idea was gradually releasing responsibility for assemblies onto the student council to have student leadership at whole-school meetings. With our new shirts, intermediate PLC members suggested Friday become school spirit days (wear your shirt or school colors.)
- One last minute add-on to the agenda was a technology update. Document cameras, projectors and flat screens have been ordered. Thank you tech committee!

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24th in Lorrie Wright's room.