



January 13, 2010

TO: R.S.U. No. 67 LSA Service-Learning Leadership Team
FROM: Mrs. Vigue
RE: Meeting in the MA Conference Room, 3:00-4:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donna Vigue
Michael Bisson
Larry Malone
Anita McCafferty
Sarah Crockett
Sharon Crockett
Holly Leighton
Ben Lothrop
Sean Sibley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heidi Harris (MCHP workshop in Portland)
Curt Ring (previous commitment)
Connie Carter (in New York)
Ron Weatherbee (Recreation Department commitment)
Malia Schaefer (studying for mid-term exams)

We began the meeting by outlining the key agenda items for the afternoon:

- Reports from grade-span coordinators
- Report from Board representative
- Report from student representatives
- Discussion and approval of LSA mid-year report
- Visioning process, Step #2
- Questions and concerns

Each grade span coordinator spoke briefly about events that have occurred since the December meeting:

- The Grade 2 project (Pennies from Angels/Share the Spirit) has been completed and went well. Having the MA Student Council as a community partner worked well in terms of wrapping and delivering the presents and increasing the number of presents and quantity of food provided to needy families over the holidays.

- One of the Grade 3 projects (Classrooms Care) has been completed. Collectively the students read 559 books. Scholastic will be donating 559 books to children in poverty- and disaster-stricken areas.
- Holly has started the Art for Public Places project (Grade 4) and students are excited about it.
- Both Grade 5 projects have been completed. The Pollution project is continuing, however, in the sense that one Grade 5 classroom is working with administration, building and grounds, and food services to work out a composting plan and another Grade 5 classroom will be writing a “Green” column for the LINCOLN NEWS.
- Grade 6 has begun the Can Tabs for Shriners project.
- Grades 7 and 8 have started the Rally for Change: A Study in Abating Hunger project. The community event is tentatively scheduled for February 6th, but may need to be moved ahead a week or so to allow students more time for research.
- Grades 7 and 8 continue to work hard on their local history project funded by the Maine Community Heritage Project grant.

Mrs. Crockett shared that she continues to provide the Board of Directors with reports of our Leadership Team meetings and that the Board enthusiastically listened in early January as three Grade 5 teachers and six students presented their Food Drive and Pollution (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) projects via a PowerPoint and student-produced DVD. Board members were “wowed.”

Sean shared that students and staff have been asking lots of questions about the murals going up on the walls at the high school: *What is this? Why are you doing that?* The questions are providing opportunities for students to talk with other students about service learning and will eventually lead to conversations about school pride. Mr. Lothrop pointed out that teachers have been impressed with how quickly the work is getting done and how non-disruptive the work has been even though students are painting right outside classrooms where instruction is going on.

Connie was unable to join us because she was in New York working on another project, but was here on January 8th to meet with MA social-studies teachers to discuss possible changes to the Public Policy project and with Grade 5 teachers to begin assessing the impact of the Pollution project. In an email to me she said, *“I was very impressed by the fifth grade team last week. I will put together some suggestions for how they might look at their project from student/teacher/community perspectives and send them to you and them. I am also going to contact Elizabeth Schneider to tell her that they will be sending a copy of the iMovie to her. I hope they follow-up with the Hall of Flags.”* We have since learned that there is no Hall of Flags event scheduled this year, but perhaps there will be another year.

I distributed copies of the mid-year report, including the Progress on Measurable Objectives and the budget. We discussed all three documents in some detail and voted to approve them as amended. I explained that I am working with Matt to revise the budget to better meet our current needs. I will let grade-span coordinators know if I am successful in moving some money around so that we can fund additional projects this winter and spring.

In the process of reviewing and amending the mid-year report as needed, we discussed the idea of having the students who are working on the Plaques, Awards, and Signs project creating a plaque for each school that recognizes its commitment to service learning and the needs that staff, students, and community partners have met in 2009-10. One idea was to make it the type of plaque that could have projects listed on metal plates screwed to the plaque so that everyone is recognized in some way. We need to have more conversation about this idea.

Anita led us through Step 2 of the visioning process. We worked with a partner to examine the visioning statements collected in November and grouped them in categories according to similarities. Per your request, I will have taken those similarities and crafted a paragraph that incorporates our ideas (See attachment). This is a working draft that we will continue to refine. I know that it needs more work.

Sean suggested that we might create a triangle (perhaps a logo for us) that shows students, staff, and community working collaboratively to meet needs. Since Holly is an art teacher, she said she would be willing to play with that idea. Presenting the plaques could be part of our end-of-year celebration(s).

Thank you yet again for the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to this work. There is hardly a day that goes by now that I am not hearing about service learning or answering a question about service learning. Kudos!

Next Meeting: February 10th, 3:00-4:30 P.M. in the MA Conference Room

Primary agenda items: Brief updates, revisiting visioning, and beginning a conversation about developing a policy