

Summary of Partnership Action Team for International School
11/1/99 meeting at Lincoln High School 3:45-5:00 PM

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John Stanford International School at Latona Elementary  
Mission: To Educate and prepare all students to achieve today  
and tomorrow in a global community and economy.  
(206) 298-7744 Principal Karen Kodama  
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recorder: Michele Anciaux

PRESENT:

Michele Anciaux, Paul Aoki, Gordon Luke, Rik Katz,
Katie Frevert (Latona parent),
Eduardo Tobar (Spanish language consultant at State
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction),
Sharon Cronin (bilingual instructor & Pacific Oakes College)

NEXT MEETINGS:

November 8 3:45-5:15 PM Lincoln High
December 6 3:45-5:15 PM Lincoln High

also coming up:

November 7-9 Port Ludlow Retreat
November 13-14 Primary Years Program Training
in Melville NY (for Concie, Nani, Margreet)
December 18 AM - Kick-off Winter Walk (see below)
January 28, 31 - possible workshop with Regla Armengol
from Center for Applied Linguistics in Wash., DC, set
up immersion program in Fairfax County

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM 11/1/99 MEETING

1. How to tie curriculum to Social Studies (Dolly)

The school has adopted a new social studies curriculum,
"World Communities." The question had to do with how to
cover different geographical areas:

- * cover specific geographical areas by whole school or
- * cover specific geographical areas by grade level

From the discussion, it seemed pretty clear that it is more
"doable" to focus on certain geographical areas by grade.
This also matches the new curriculum better:

K-1 Mexico
2-3 South America (and Central?)
4-5 Spain (Europe)

It is still possible to do some school-wide activities to make
it coherent, but each grade-level teacher won't have to develop
curriculum for Mexico, for example.

2. Fund Development

Karen has received a letter from the General Counsel suggesting what are and what are not appropriate ways to "recognize" or mutually benefit businesses and other groups that contribute to the JSIS. (For example, nameplates in books are OK.)

Karen is interested in trying to write a grant to fund a staff person to be community liaison.

3. Web Site

Our UW student web site developer is getting started.

4. Brochure

Karen is still looking for a donation of printing for the brochure. SAFEQ can't do it. Karen will approach Boeing.

(Note: suggestion from Michele - is there any chance of getting Landor to provide a modified black-and-white version that can be printed as needed for general consumption? Even if we get an initial print run donated, we are likely to run out. We can't be left sitting with nothing to give people just because the color printing is prohibitive.)

UPDATES FROM PARTNERSHIP ACTION TEAM

We talked mostly about working on the connections with Latona School community. Karen informed us that the Latona Site Council is not currently meeting and will reexamine its role in May. Karen would like to include parents on the School Leadership Team in the future. Students (who used to be represented on the Site Council) are now encouraged to be active in the Latona PTSA.

[Historical Note for those of you who don't know about site councils and such. Speaking in general terms (since I don't know the specifics of Latona), the Seattle School District was encouraging schools (and at one point mandating schools) to establish "Site Councils" - typically bodies representing parents, teachers, staff, students, principal, and often community members. These Site Councils were intended to provide a forum for shared decision making in the school (which was viewed as a necessary component of education reform). Some schools developed very strong, effective site councils; many did not.

After John Stanford (and Joseph Olchefske) came to the district, there was a move toward more local decision making

in schools through a new funding formula. In connection with this (if my understanding is correct), principals were to establish "Leadership Teams" to include staff and teachers in the decision making process for allocating funds. Sometimes parents could also be included on the Leadership Team (though to my knowledge, there was no mechanism for "electing" parents to represent the broad parent constituency).

In any case, things seem to be a little confusing right now because there may be multiple shared decision making bodies (e.g., Site Council with elected members; Leadership Team with selected members; PTA/PTSA with elected members - but you have to join the PTA to serve). Michele]

In terms of the role of the "Partnership Action Team," our job is to interface with whatever is the leadership body at the school in order to directly relate our efforts in building school-family-community partnerships based on strategic goals that the leadership body has set for the school.

Not sure yet how we'll sort this all out, but it seems like the next step is for members of our Partnership Action Team (i.e. the "Outreach Committee" for the John Stanford International School) to meet with leaders in Latona school (whether Site Council, Leadership Team, or PTSA) and see what everyone's priorities are.

A final topic of conversation was the future of BOC (Bilingual Orientation Center) kids at the school, i.e. how to encourage them to stay on at JSIS after they complete their bilingual orientation. Karen says it will really be up to the parents, recognizing that the kids will be getting 1/2 day immersion in Spanish and no special ESL instruction (once they enter the regular program).

Also, how do we attract, in particular, Hispanic families to apply to Latona next year? Eduardo and Karen said they will work on creating a piece to give to the Latino Childcare Task Force of King County and other Hispanic community groups.