



Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY
COMMITTEE MEETING

Pine View School
Monday, December 14, 2009
10:00 am

MINUTES

ATTENDEES		
Kathleen Sullivan	Mary Wolf	Claudia Malecki
Dianne Lawrence	Elizabeth Crouse	Candy Exline
Valerie Walton	Jackie Fountaine	Missy Eckenrod

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Kathleen Sullivan, who welcomed everyone.

2. TOUR OF PINE VIEW

Beth Baranowski gave the committee a tour of the campus and the buildings that will be available for the Provider Conference, including the gym and student union. Members all felt the setting seemed ideal for the conference.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Conference Planning:

The committee discussed:

- Having a flyer of some sort with information on Pine View School for participant binders
- Need for signs to post along the driveway to direct everyone towards parking and registration, and possibly on Old Venice Road to assist in locating the conference site.
- See if golf cart would be available to assist in getting around campus for anyone that may be disabled
- Possibility of having music playing during lunch to create atmosphere
- Covering tables outside with paper to encourage drawing/ creativity
- Instead of interactive tables have “express yourself” activities at tables for participants. In the past the interactive tables have displayed activities for children and this does not necessarily fit into the theme of conference this year
- Mural: possibility of having large sheets of paper on the windows in the Student Union with paint, markers, crayons available for open ended creativity.
- Jackie stated she had a 4ft by 8 ft board with cork board on one side and chalk board on other that she is willing to donate to the cause and discussion ensued on having this outside as a drawing or painting board, possibly covered with a canvas drop cloth instead of paper.

The Schedule-At-A-Glance was reviewed by all members and consensus was that a totally new format is needed to eliminate any confusion of the 16 sessions that will be presented.

Mary reported that Susan Slack may be attending our next meeting. She will be a presenter and has extensive early childhood experience. Susan has offered her services to communicate with other artist presenters who may have questions related the arts and early childhood and to help prepare lesson plans for the binder.

The committee also discussed the closing drum session. Steve Turner will have approximately 150 drums and the Student Union will need to be set up after lunch in two large circles of chairs. The schedule as it is now allows 20 minutes for set up. Discussion ensued regarding the logistics.

Mary stated she is confident that we will be able to find presenters for the 16 sessions.

Questions that still need to be answered regarding Pine View:

- Can we get into the kitchen on Friday
- Can we store things in front of the Auditorium the night before
- How early can we get into the School on Saturday
- Can we get a synopsis of Pine View for the binders
- How is the transition from the dance Friday night and set up for the conference going to work
- Does the school have 10 long tables that we can use (4 tables for food in the morning)
- Will the custodians be available on golf carts to assist disabled attendees

Direction for Kathleen's remarks:

Candy stated that participants may not see the benefit or value of how the conference is set up this year. The goal is for participants to be given an opportunity for direct, hands-on experience, and then the connection can be made to activities and approaches that can be implemented in their classrooms.

It's also important to discuss barriers teachers may feel to implementing a more open-ended explorative approach and provide information backed by research that explains why this is the most effective and developmentally appropriate way to support children's skills.

The committee also discussed that all domains interconnect, education for teachers will bring a new level of professionalism to their classroom, that teachers can only teach what they know and are familiar with. The conference is a way of letting teachers experience for themselves the pleasure of open ended, creative activities and then be energized to provide the same opportunities for children, and should serve as a reminder that teachers can explore and learn things right along with children, providing opportunities for all to grow together.

Mary distributed some conference resources and asked anyone that may have resources for the participant binders email them to the Coalition.

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary distributed the Creative Curriculum training flyer to members.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:57. Next meeting set for January 11th at The Landings.

Submitted by Valerie Walton