

NEW MEXICO PARTNERSHIP FOR MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, February 22nd, 1-4 PM

PLACE: Radisson, 750 N St. Francis Dr, Santa Fe

Participating: Jayne Aubele, Pleddie Baker, Rockford Burris, Jack Jekowski, Vicente Llamas, Mary Neikirk, Matt Nyman, Rick Scott, Kurt Steinhaus, Betsy Yost, Albert Zamora

II. Report on Legislative Session - Mary Neikirk reported that there was significant legislation related to education perhaps the most notable of which are referred to as the Education Reform Act (House Bill 81 and Senate Bill 308) that include many of the recommendations of the Education Initiatives and Accountability Task Force. The bill presenting proposals of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce does not seem to be doing as well. Since so much money is being requested for education this year, Jack Jekowski was asked to explain how the Permanent Fund works. New Mexico has a \$12 billion permanent fund that is among the 3 largest education endowments in the world. 4.7% of that fund is used annually for education. Proposals to increase the percentage that is used have been rejected by fears that increased use of the fund would lead to its shrinking and, although it might be possible to increase returns through more aggressive investment, there are also fears that such strategies could backfire.

II. Report on NASSMC Directors Report - Vicente Llamas & Kurt Steinhaus reported that at the NASSMC meeting they were able to see the vast differences there are among the state coalitions: varying from some states where they are a line item in the state budget to others that are just trying to put a coalition together. The report on our Professional Development Summit was well received and the report on Professional Development Plans that we commissioned Minnick and Associates to do was suggested as a good model. NASSMC is keeping a close watch on developments in Washington and feels that, although there is renewed interest in math and science education at that level, there is also concerns that the Eisenhower funding set-asides for math and science may be swallowed up into block grants to the states.

III. Relating the Glenn Commission Report (*Before It s Too Late*) to New Mexico & the role of the Partnership. The following outline of the goals from the Glenn Report was used to guide discussion. To get a copy of the full report go to <http://www.ed.gov/americanaccounts/glenn>

Goal 1: Ongoing system to improve K-12 math/sci

1. States do *Needs Assessment*: what teachers require to deliver high-quality teaching
It was suggested that the Math Ed and Science Ed surveys that have been used in the past be resurrected and updated, and combined with instruments developed by the Northern Network to survey the comfort level of teachers with specific math and science standards. The Minnick Report on Professional Development Plans was also suggested as fertile ground for needs assessment.
2. *Summer Institutes*: to address professional development needs
The Old CRCM Database which includes professional development options is being updated and could serve as a source for information on summer institutes.
3. Building & district-level *Inquiry Groups*: venues for common study of knowledge & skills

UCAN-RSI has had some success with inquiry groups for Superintendents and there may be some teacher inquiry groups in APS that developed out of the FAME project. Las Cruces Public Schools has had some luck with inquiry groups for teachers that worked together on an Exxon Foundation grant.

4. *Leadership Training*: to prepare facilitators for the Summer Institutes & Inquiry Groups
There was some concern expressed that this was a narrow view of Leadership Development.
5. *Internet Portal*: to make use of & contribute to ever-expanding knowledge
The RETA (reta.nmsu.edu) and MathStar (mathstar.nmsu.edu) projects have done significant work in this direction for New Mexico.
6. Nongovernmental *Coordinating Council*: bring together above initiatives & assess
This is a role that the Partnership tries to play.
7. *Reward & Incentive Programs*: support exemplary PD & increase attractiveness of teaching

Goal 2: Increase quantity & quality of teachers

1. Identify & replicate *exemplary models of teacher preparation*
NM CETP and PT3 projects are trying to do this. Jayne Aubele suggested that non-formal science organizations can play a linking role here.
2. Overarching strategy of finding ways to *attract additional qualified candidate into teaching*
The Title II Teacher Enhance grant and NM-CETP have implemented various strategies none of which is probably overarching.
3. 15 competitively funded *Math & Science Teaching Academies*

Goal 3: Improve working environment

1. Focused *induction programs*: create formal mentorships & introduce Inquiry Groups
Some school districts now have good models, Rep. Picraux has introduced legislation (House Bill 47), and the new Northern Network RSI has plans for a 2 Experts Model .
2. *District/business partnerships*: provide materials, facilities, equipment, mentor stipends
Although this is difficult in the many rural areas of the state, one good rural example is that some rural telecommunication companies are providing T1 lines to schools.
3. *Incentives for retention*: cash awards, salary increases, support for further ed, recognition
4. *Salaries* of all must be made more competitive, but especially math/sci
It looks like the ambitious salaries suggested in HB 81 and SB 308 (\$30,000 for Level 1, \$40,000 for Level 2, and \$50,000 for Level 3) will not pass, but it does look like K-12 teachers might get an 8% raise. There has not been much discussion in New Mexico about salary increments for math and science Teachers.

IV. Board Elections - The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors: Carlos Atencio, Northern Network RSI, Education; Jayne Aubele, New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Private Foundation; Pleddie Baker, White Sands Test Facility, NASA; Susan Brown, NM Collaborative for Excellence in Education, Education; Rockford Burris, New Mexico Math Association for 2-Year Colleges, Education; Mary Jo Daniels, Albuquerque Public Schools, Education; Michael Garcia, MESA, Private Foundation; Thomas Gruska, Western New Mexico

University, Education; Elwyn Hulett, Eastern New Mexico University, Education; Jack Jekowski, Innovative Technology Partnerships, Private Corporation; Julie Johnston, At large, Community Leadership; Barbara Kimbell, University of New Mexico, Education; Rick Kitchen, University of New Mexico, Education; Vicente Llamas, UCAN-RSI, Education; Richard Nygren, Sandia National Lab, National Lab; Mary Savacheck, NM Science Teachers Association, education; Rick Scott, New Mexico State University, Education; Mike Silva, Public Service Co. of New Mexico, Public Utility; Kurt Steinhaus, Los Alamos National Labs, National Lab; Betsy Yost, New Mexico Highlands University, Education

V. Project Reports

a. Matt Nyman shared a report on the Natural Science courses for Elementary Education majors at UNM. Assessment results show that students in those courses are learning content and developing confidence to teach that content (www.unm.edu/~natsci/).

b. Jayne Aubele reported that the Museum of Natural History's Way Out West TV program has been nationally distributed, their Bosque Education Guide has been published and they are preparing teacher training materials for each of their halls.

(www.museums.state.nm.us/nmmnh/)

c. Rockford Burris indicated that the NMMATYC Conference will be at Albuquerque TVI from May 31-June 2. (www.unm.edu/~nmmatyc/)

d. Albert Zamora informed us that the Northern Network RSI has received verbal confirmation from NSF that they will be funded. They will work in 21 districts to institutionalize changes in Standards-based curriculum, teaching and assessment. They will also work on leadership development of master teachers and will have circuit riders to assist schools.

e. Vicente Llamas pointed out that UCAN-RSI is still funded to the end of May and continues to work on leadership development. Anyone interested in attending their last leadership conference (3/29-31) should contact Vicente. (ucanrsi.nmhu.edu)

f. Kurt Steinhaus indicated that the Center for Space Science and Exploration at LANL is planning to submit a grant to NASA's Education and Public Outreach (EPO) program and are considering using the Partnership as their fiscal agent. Kurt also asked us to help him find a student who would like to work at LANL for 8-10 weeks this summer on the Education Outreach webpage.

g. Pleddie Baker announced that student from UNM, SJC, Las Cruces HS and Mayfield HS will be flying on the KC135. Also, 87 students from 25 high schools recently competed in the Marsville activity.

H. Mary Neikirk provided information on the New Mexico Virtual School.

(www.nmvs.org)

VI Next meeting time and place - Friday, April 27, in Albuquerque, at a place to be announced.