

New Mexico Partnership for Math & Science Education Minutes

Friday, April 27, 1-4 p.m.
Press Room, PNM Alvarado Center

Participating: Pleddie Baker, Susan Brown, Rockford Burris, Pat Cleaveland, Roberto Cordova, Tom Cummings, Mary Jo Daniel, Michele Diel, Claire Fenton, John Glaser, Carmen Gonzales, Tom Gruszka, Wanda Guzman, Barbara Kimbell, Rick Kitchen, Robert LaFarge, Vicente Llamas, Clo Mingo, Rick Scott, Mike Silva, Kurt Steinhaus, Betsy Yost

- I. A very informative talk by Mike Silva from PNM described the alternative program that PNM is helping to provide for students who have dropped out of school. The response has been very good with over 70 students taking the computer classes for credit.
- II. Bear Roberto Cordova shared the *Develop* program. This program involved graduate engineering students working with high school students to understand the digital earth. A hand-out of his powerpoint presentation has all needed information.
- III. Vicente Llamas reported that at the end of March a meeting was held with Cherilynn Morrow from the Space Science Institute in Boulder, CO. Dr. Morrow is a NASA Broker/Facilitator for Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming. Broker/Facilitators are regional in scope with some national roles and cross themes. They will: 1) Identify and establish alliances between educators and scientists; 2) Identify and address outstanding local, state and regional needs in the formal and informal education communities, 3) Facilitate the use of the archive and dissemination infrastructure, and 4) Help scientists become more effective in education and outreach. There is the possibility that Los Alamos Labs will partner with New Mexico, Colorado, and perhaps Arizona to create a more manageable Broker/Facilitator role.
- IV. The future of the NM Partnership for Math and Science Education Board will be discussed in detail in a Strategic Planning Meeting at the Inn of the Mountain Gods retreat on May 18 & 19. Karen Matray will facilitate the conference; brainstorm where to go? Where have we been? How to get there?
- V. The NMPMSE board met with RETA s advisory board the morning of April 27 and Carmen Gonzales with her staff presented a very informative overview of the dynamics of RETA. The board will continue to meet with RETA to help plan the course of RETA s journey.
- VI. EPSCoR: Barbara Kimbell, representing NSF EPSCoR, explained that being an EPSCoR state will help the universities in New Mexico to build their research infrastructure if the \$3,000,000/year grant is received. Even if that infrastructure

grant is not approved, NSF EPSCoR status means that strong proposals from New Mexico are eligible for funding even if the division they are submitted to does not have sufficient resources to offer funding. The Department of Defense has also named New Mexico an EPSCoR, while the DOE has not put NM on their list yet. EPSCoR evens the playing field for NM. Diversity and educational outreach are very important issues for proposals under the EPSCoR infrastructure grant.

VII. UNM Summer Academies: Rick Kitchen discussed the summer academies for Teachers that are being offered in Northern New Mexico. Kathryn Watkins is offering a secondary science academy in Taos; Rick Kitchen a secondary mathematics Academy in Gallup; Quincy Spurlin an Ecology and Environmental Monitoring academy in Belen; and Teresa Kokoski Technology in Science Beyond the Classroom at UNM. This funding is a Congressional set-aside through the US Department of Education. For more information contact Rick at kitchen@unm.edu.

VIII. Future Educators of America: Pleddie Baker reports that there are 7 middle schools and three high schools with clubs in Las Cruces. The clubs will be spreading across New Mexico & we need to grow our own teachers. (A problem with the FEA emblem was discussed &)

James Pratt (NASA) will be offering workshops to teachers to help present astronomy and space science with an inquiry approach. At NMSU we may combine the pre-service teachers, novice teachers, and students in the future educators of America clubs.

NASA's KC-135 aircraft (Vomit Comet) is active with different teams from New Mexico. This has been a wonderful opportunity for many.

The Mars development settlement contest was announced. Contact Pleddie Baker (pbaker@wstf.nasa.gov) for details.

IX. NASA Teacher Resource Center has been moved to the LRC of the College of Education at NMSU (third floor of O Donnell Hall). Information should soon be available at nmnasa.nmsu.edu.

- X. Rural Systemic Initiatives: Carlos Atencio reported that, although they are still awaiting award letters the 2 new RSIs are proceeding with:
- a. all means all do not ignore any students & this is the mission of the RSI
 - b. With few teachers in some small districts, there are gaps in content knowledge. Teachers are asked to commit to certain things that are non-negotiable
 - c. Communities are an integral part of the RSI &

XI. Gadsden Mathematics Institute: Wanda Guzman reported that the Gadsden Math Initiative is on its way with Teacher Enhancement funding from NSF! K-8 math

teachers in the Gadsden school district will receive training and on-site support in math instruction that supports the state and national standards. The district is very dedicated to this grant and all teachers will participate. Parents will also be involved so that a line of communication continues about the expectations of the students. A hand-out describes this new grant in detail.

- XII. Virtual High School: A website is being built and is considering all curricular areas.
- XIII. Report on the Legislative Session: Two hand-outs document all educational bills. Highlights: Advanced Placement well funded; teachers earn an 8% increase; and return to employment after one year s absence and receive retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. J. Johnston resigned as from the Board and her position as Treasurer. Steve Sanchez was voted in as a Board member with 100% support!
2. State Math standards will be written like the social studies standards in format.
3. NMMATYC Conference 2001 Math Odyssey TVI (Branch by the Pit) on May 31-June 3.
4. American Society of Parasitology Conference in Albuquerque July 1 & wonderful component of how to teach parasitology to students so that they are interested and understand. New Mexico parasites will be featured..!!!
5. The State Math/Science Conference will be in Taos on October 12-13.