



Office of the Pima County School Superintendent
Southern Arizona Professional Developers

Minutes September 19, 2014

Welcome, Introductions

Members present: Amphitheater, AZ K12 Center, JTED, Native Education Alliance, Office of the Pima County School Superintendent, Pima Community College, Sahuarita, Southern Arizona Writing Project, Sunnyside, Tanque Verde, Tucson Unified, University of Arizona

Welcome New Members: Mary Jo Boyter from Sahuarita USD, Kathy Dong from Sunnyside USD, and Renee Arakaki for TUSD

As members introduced themselves, they shared the PD focus of their districts and projects for the 2014-15 school year.

Regional Centers SUPER Website

- ❖ Thanks to Cody Cassidy for sharing <http://www.azregionalcenters.com/> This URL is the Regional Centers Super website that will provide one site for all professional development offerings and news from the state's five regional centers.
- ❖ This website is a product of the Race to the Top initiative in Arizona and is truly a "collaboration of the regional collaborations"
- ❖ The updated SAREC (Southern Arizona Regional Education Center) website will be part of this website when it rolls out ... soon. The two systems will talk to each other for awhile, before the SAREC website morphs into the one on the Super Website.

New & Improved LETRS Workshops

- ❖ Bette Lovelace explained how a federal grant supports the revision and distribution of the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) through ADE's Exceptional Services division. A letter from Sandra Laine (ADE contact) is attached and explains the roll-out of the new program. This letter was sent to all districts previously.
- ❖ Bette's PowerPoint (attached) outlined the components of LETRS, including the state paying all expenses to train facilitators in Phoenix. These trainers would then be available to the regional centers. Bette is available through SAREC.
- ❖ The PowerPoint also delineated each module of LETRS and how these workshops align the components of Comprehensive Reading Instruction with Organization of Language.
- ❖ Kevin Harcourt and Mary Jo Boyter from Sahuarita USD shared their previous LETRS experience (as learner and implementer.) LETRS became the basis of Sahuarita's primary reading and writing program and aligns with their RTI process.
- ❖ Thanks to Bette, Kevin, and Mary Jo for presenting and answering questions from the audience.

SAREC Workshops Update

- ❖ Denise shared recent SAREC workshop flyers (attached) and opportunities from the West Central Region for Young Playwrights. These are available upon request.

What Will It Take to Change?

- ❖ Denise shared a recent article “What Will It Take to Change?” from Education Leadership (May, 2014) that detailed the professional learning research that leads to instructional changes.
- ❖ A World Café format was used with the five principles noted in the article. Time allowed participants to share strategies and challenges in implementing three of the five strategies in their districts. Below is a summary of the principles and the table discussions:
 - PD delivered in context and by grade level --- use PLC’s and support teacher walk-throughs in each other classrooms
 - Initial exposure to a topic must not be passive --- PD must contain modeling, so teacher engagement in a PD is an important as student engagement in the classroom; stress best practices and don’t try “to fix” the teachers
 - Duration should be significant and ongoing – use job-embedded PD to make the most impact; the challenge is always the “follow-up” piece
 - Modeling is effective – attendees are looking at everything we do, so make it a learning experience; make attendees aware that we are modeling and “practice what we preach”
 - Support teachers during implementation – use coaches for ongoing support at sites; use online and PLCs as resources; challenges include limited resources, time to differentiated PD and a formal structure for follow-up dialogue.
- ❖ The members discussed how they use the World Café (and variations of it) in their professional learning sessions.

SAPD Meeting Dates for 2014-2015

December 12, February 20, and April 17

Hot Topic Request

- ❖ Assessment? Anything?
- ❖ Invite the new School Superintendent of Instruction --- whomever he/she may be

Next Meeting: Friday, December 12th