

Elementary Math Endorsement Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2009
USOE
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Dixie Blackinton, Amy Brown, Nedra Call, Jennie DeFriez, Shari Goodman, Lynne Greenwood, Mary Kay Kirkland, Barbara Kuehl, Lois Richins, Hugo Rossi, Teddi Safman, David Smith, Diana Suddreth, Elaine Tuft, Ron Twitchell, Aleen Ure, John Womack, David Wright

Notes: Patty Hunt

PURPOSE; Review the Elementary Mathematics Endorsement for Post Graduate Teachers and Provide Guidance by Creating Common Syllabi Frameworks.

Welcome – Lois Richins

Lois welcomed everyone. Lois commented that she has been filling in part-time and on a temporary basis as the Elementary Math Specialist. She has learned much and found the work interesting.

Discussion Points – Lynne Greenwood and Lois Richins

Lynne expressed her appreciation for the work of this committee. David Smith was introduced as a new coordinator in the Curriculum and Instruction section over Math and Science. David will be transitioning from his former position in Assessment.

1. Qualifications for Instructors

A. University – determined by University

B. Adjunct

Lynne reviewed the qualifications for instructors as had been discussed at the April 24th meeting. Minimum instructor qualification recommendations are:

- Master's Degree and current Mathematics endorsement
- OR
- Master's Degree in Mathematics or Mathematics Education

AND

- 5 years teaching experience

There was general agreement with these recommendations from committee members in attendance.

Following are points of discussion:

District leaders lend quality control to coursework which can be variable across the state.

Districts need to prioritize needs and how best to meet those needs.

Districts need to recruit the best teachers to teach teachers.

Classroom teachers need to have knowledge of elementary students and how children learn.

Teachers need content knowledge beyond the grades they teach, i.e. connections between arithmetic and Algebra. Teachers need both a higher level of Math knowledge and teaching knowledge.

Not every district can teach endorsement classes. Box Elder has developed a partnership with Weber State. Other districts may develop similar partnerships.

Districts have the incentive to get the best teachers and courses.

Courses need to be rigorous and include content and pedagogy.

Universities will determine courses taught through respective Math Departments.

David Smith will develop the guide for Elementary Math Endorsement instructors and present them to the committee. The guidelines will be for local adjunct instructors, not for university instructors. University instructors are determined by each university.

2. End-of-Endorsement Assessment

Travis Rawlings gave a presentation on assessments and board requirements for an assessment tied to an endorsement. The consensus was that there was no viable and reliable test that would fit the end of endorsement. A Praxis II test might be considered as an option. One is not available right now, but if there were enough national interest, ETS could consider developing a second Praxis. (This would be a long term solution. It costs approximately \$2000 per test item.) We may need to consider a pilot program to test assessment options. Right now, there is no requirement to get a Level II endorsement. Endorsements due to additional credits may raise a teacher's salary. The reason most teachers pursue an endorsement is to become a better teacher. Courses are intended for experienced teachers, not a 1st year teacher.

3. Course/Benchmark Assessments

The group discussed inclusion of mid-course benchmark tests in each syllabus. This should not just be a multiple choice test but really provide guidance to assess one's knowledge throughout the course.

4. Text for Courses

Review as each syllabus is completed.

5. Included in All Courses: Content Knowledge/Pedagogy

NCTM Standards

Core Curriculum

All courses should use NCTM standards as their guiding influence and should include core curriculum. Our ultimate goal is to help children.

6. Implementation of Committee Recommendations

The following courses were reviewed. Further editing and development will be done, as appropriate.

Review and Comments on Most Recent Syllabi Revisions on the Following:

- 1. Numbers and Operations – Eric Rowley and Amy Bingham-Brown**
- 2. Proportionality and Rational Numbers – Barbara Kuehl**
- 3. Geometry and Measurement – David Wright and Damon Bahr**

Review and Discuss Work Done on the Following Syllabi:

- 1. Algebra – Barbara Kuehl**
- 2. Data Analysis and Problem Solving – Amy Bingham-Brown**
- 3. Assessment and Analysis of Student Thinking – Emina Albegovic**

Next Steps

The group agreed they would like Numbers and Operations, the first class in the series for an elementary math endorsement, to be ready by the start of fall semester. The next meeting will be held August 7 at USOE, to finalize this syllabus. Work on this, and other syllabi will continue via e-mail.

**Next Meeting
August 7, 2009
1:00-4:00 p.m.
IMC, USOE**