

PDS Consortium Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2009

8:00-10:00 AM

Court Street Elementary School

Attendance: There were 28 BSC faculty, 26 students, 15 mentoring teachers, 8 principals, 1 superintendent, and 1 administrator in attendance.

I. Welcome: Leslie Day welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the principal of Court Street Elementary, Mrs. Deborah Bojanowski. Mrs. Bojanowski also welcomed all attendees to the school and encouraged everyone to have the “Thanksgiving Breakfast” provided by the school. She introduced Mr. Edward Myszka, superintendent of the Lancaster School District, who welcomed all attendees to the meeting. John McGowan, PDS Student Representative, presented Mrs. Bojanowski with a thank-you gift on behalf of the PDS. Leslie Day invited all first-time attendees of a PDS meeting to stand and introduce themselves. There were 21 first-time attendees.

II. Announcements: Kathy Wood announced that there is a new opportunity for students to have teaching experiences in Costa Rica, and encouraged those interested to contact her. Leslie Day announced that the Consortium is preparing to appoint two undergraduate students as PDS Student Representatives, and encouraged attendees to recommend possible candidates. Rachel Barnard presented the positive results of the electronic evaluations of the PDS Annual Retreat 2009.

III. Slate Nominations for PDS Advisory Council: The Consortium voted on the slate nominations for the PDS Advisory Council. Maureen Gambino and Kelly Pershyn were voted in as members of the Council.

IV. “Making a Case for Global Literature,” *Global Taskforce*: Dr. Pixita Del Prado Hill encouraged Consortium members to complete and submit the Global Taskforce Interest Survey that was distributed with the handouts. She then introduced Dr. Nancy Chicola, who presented on “Making a Case for Global Literature.” Dr. Chicola began by emphasizing the differences between global and multicultural literature, and stated that the events of September 11th underscore the need for US citizens to see the position of their nation through the eyes of the world. She encouraged PDS attendees to broaden their horizons beyond picture books and to consider options such as novels and non-fiction. She reminded them to examine literary elements such as theme, plot, characterization, point of view, and setting (in fiction), and style, content, format, and organization in nonfiction. She stated that when we evaluate global literature, we must examine the text for inclusion of elements such as cultural accuracy, character authenticity, richness of cultural details, celebration of both common bonds and diversity, and characters that represent minority groups who are placed in the literature for purposes deeper than filling a quota. A CD was distributed to the attendees containing tools that would aid them in selecting appropriate global literature, and the presentation will be

posted on the PDS website. A small group activity in which participants evaluated global literature and a read-aloud of *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* by Mem Fox were also included in the presentation.

V. “What Your College Doesn’t Tell You About Student Teaching,”

Court Street Elementary and Debbie Bojanowski: Debbie Bojanowski and Gloria Horn presented some of the methods Court Street Elementary School uses to welcome and prepare student teachers. Debbie Bojanowski stated that Court Street Elementary views student teaching as a community-based activity that the entire faculty shares in. She listed some of the ways that this process is organized, such as a welcoming committee that presents student teachers with a “tool-kit” on their arrival, streamlining the process of training the student teachers in the use of school technologies, and posting photographs and names of student teachers in the faculty room so they can be easily identified by faculty. Gloria Horn presented the student teaching guide that is given to student teachers, which contains information on a variety of topics, such as professional conduct, school safety procedures, use of materials, and time management. Former student teachers at Court Street Elementary attested to the helpfulness of this program.

VI. Next Meeting: We hope to see everyone at our next meeting on **December 4, 2009 at School #82, Buffalo.**

Check out the PDS website: www.buffalostate.edu/pds

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a best practice research project to share on our highlights page? Are your teacher candidates doing something great? Please send contributions to daylk@buffalostate.edu

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Barnard