

ASD RCCP Steering Committee Caucus

May 24, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Mary Bartz, Vickie Blakeney, Patty Clem, Wendy Constantine, Sheila Judge Hall, Vicki Hodge, Gretchen Hopkins, Sharon House, Michael Kerosky, Robyn Rehmann, Anne Salzer

Excused: Enid Silverstein, Cheryl Hilmes

The meeting was started with a gathering asking attendees to reflect on their first connection with RCCP.

Michael Kerosky presented Wendy Constantine with a bouquet of flowers; recognizing and thanking her for her years of service to ASD RCCP; her many contributions and for overseeing the creation of such a solid base for RCCP in ASD.

Michael Kerosky reviewed the purpose and agenda for the Caucus. He explained that with Wendy moving on to a different position, the coordination of RCCP will be through this committee with his assistance.

By way of background, Michael explained that Safe and Drug Free Schools budget is being cut by 21% next year, and additional 26% two years later, and the President's budget calls for the total elimination of SDFS funding for 2007-2008. The launching of the Social and Emotional Learning 2 Showcase schools calls for a full time coach position to assist teachers in implementing SEL. Due to her skills and success doing this at Baxter, Wendy Constantine was being moved to this position starting next year. SDFS has applied for a special grant to fund the SEL Showcase schools; if that is received there will be funds for two SEL coaches at 4 elementary schools. There will also be one middle school SEL Showcase school (with the new Muldoon Middle School coming on as an SEL Showcase School) and two high school pilots. Jan Davis and other SDFS staff will serve as upper division coaches.

Michael reviewed a memo indicating current SDFS spending on RCCP (enclosed). He explained that mini-grants will be cut by at least 35% next year, and more the following year. Michael reiterated the power of RCCP and the research documenting its success. The RCCP research states that teachers need to teach at 25 lessons per year on the average. The importance of also having mediators was emphasized. The need is for data about the success of RCCP in Anchorage schools. To date, RCCP efforts have been on as needed basis which has led to a shotgun effect; many schools doing components of RCCP; none doing the full program. Michael explained that we need to pick a few schools who are willing to do the full RCCP program and document their success. Then we would be able to request funding both internally and externally. He reiterated SDFS commitment to making RCCP successful both through the SEL showcase schools and the selected RCCP demonstration schools.

The committee brainstormed ideas about what could be done to select, support and train the RCCP demonstration schools. The team from Campbell indicated they would like to be a candidate for a demonstration schools. Creekside indicated they would be interested if they are not selected as a SEL showcase school. Committee agreed the best option would be for the RCCP demonstration schools' faculty to train in RCCP as the SEL showcase schools faculty were trained.

Dates with reserved subs for next year were discussed for a possible RCCP Gathering and a Mediation Trainer Gathering. Michael explained that there would probably not be enough money to bring up a speaker. The idea of doing one RCCP gathering using the Open Space technology was discussed. In this format, attendees sign up to offer spontaneous breakout sessions. This would save pre-Gathering organization and arrangements. The date of September 28 was selected; there are 40 subs available for that date. Subs would be paid for by SDFS.

Please mark your calendars:

The next meeting of the RCCP Steering Committee is Aug 8, 2006 in Room 202 at the Admin Building

ASD RCCP Gathering September 28, 2006