

Arkansas 21C Regional Network Meeting

Allbritton Elementary School
Hamburg School District

April 26, 2006

- Introductions and Continental Breakfast: Hamburg Schools
Superintendent, Keith Alexander, welcomed 21C members and guests to the Hamburg School District. Each attendant introduced him/herself by identifying his/her name and city. Marilyn Chambers briefly gave an overview of the Hamburg School District and its annexation of five other districts. Following the introduction of Hamburg Schools, Marilyn related the history of the School of the 21st Century and its 33 Arkansas pre-K programs. School of the 21st Century was compared to an umbrella and the ribs of the umbrella are the various preschool programs serving preschool children in Arkansas.
- Beth Lapin stressed the importance of having quality programs. A commitment from the Superintendent, integrating the core principles into the fabric of the school, and blending funding streams were vital to a successful 21 C program.

- “What you will see during site visits?” / Core Knowledge: Pre-K teachers, Karen and Ronda, shared a lesson plan titled “On Safari: A Hunting We Will Go” from the Core Knowledge Curriculum. The lesson plan consisted of poems, finger plays, music, art, books, field trips, and other fun activities to help the children become familiar with the jungle and its habitat.
- Dianne and Susan conducted a tour of their building, stopping at points of interest. Visitors were especially delighted to visit the art classroom and view the work of preschool students and see the results of using the core knowledge approach to learning. An overview of record keeping techniques for After School Programs was impressive. The tour of Noble Elementary (Pre-K-3rd) and Allbritton Elementary (4th -5th) gave the 21C members and guest a first hand look at how the Hamburg Schools District implements the 21C core components and guiding principles.
- Arkansas Better Chance: Linking Quality to Outcome – Sherrill Archer and Megan Coyle presented information about the effect of pre-k education on the long term outcome of children. 21C and ABC are very collaborative endeavor to improve the education of children.

Researchers have said that poverty was the most affective element in a child's ability to succeed in school, but a new evaluation system now shows that preschool education has the most effect on student success. Every \$1 spent on preschool education saves \$7 later on in the education of a child. ABC has tripled in size, has over 200 programs and 5 faith based programs.

- Arkansas Out of School Network: Paul Kelly introduced the 21C members and guests to information about the AOSN. The goal of the AOSN is to strengthen, expand, and sustain Arkansas' school-based and school-linked services to children and youth, ages 4-19 during out-of-school time. Paul asked that schools host meetings with community leaders to discuss the importance of after school programs to keep children safe and help working families. Beth reported that Diane Lawrence from Hamburg has agreed to represent 21C on the state-wide AOSN committee; Cabot will represent 21C on the quality working group and Batesville on the professional development one. As the two other working groups get started, other volunteers will be added. The goal is to have 21C representation at each working group and statewide meeting.

- Parent Involvement Tips: Norma Meek welcomed everyone and gives her appreciation to the Hamburg School district staff.
Improving parental involvement was the topic. Norma stressed that most parents do want their child to be successful, but often don't know what to do to help. Norma suggested:
 - As a school, decide what you want parents to do, tell them and show them ways to accomplish that task.
 - Make school programs child centered by putting each child in the spotlight in various ways.
 - Meet the parents at their convenient time, not ours.
- Arkansas 21C Announcements and Updates: Beth Lapin gave information about the 2006 21C Summer Institute which will be held at Yale University in New Haven, CT. The registration deadline is June 1st. Beth introduced many ways to promote awareness about the School of the 21st Century through a new initiative, *Get the Word Out* and expected events between now and the 2007 conference. She gathered information about continued involvement with community partners after Hurricane Katrina. She will email everyone to gather information about their collaboration with Head Start. Two members [Deb Swink and Anne Sneed (nominated but not yet confirmed as to

her interest/availability] were considered and accepted to the AR21C Coordinating Committee. Lynn Johnson volunteered to help develop membership criteria for AR21C Network. The meeting was dismissed.

- Site Visit to After-school Program: several people stayed to visit with the after-school program while it was in session.