Curriculum Director's Report

February 16, 2010

TEACHING:

With the end of a semester come grades, report cards, and a few moments to look back and reflect. This moment of reflection gives us an opportunity to make changes where it's necessary and sometimes it's just the opportunity to catch up. As a classroom teacher this is especially important. Being directly responsible for the learning that takes place in the classroom, it's often a challenge to balance the needs of all students while still meeting all the external expectations at home and school. So "time" becomes a very cherished commodity…especially time for reflection, adjusting, and making every remaining minute you have with students count. So days like January 29 are sincerely appreciated. From the teacher, I thank you and from the administrator who continues to support the teachers, I thank you. Hopefully as a district we will be able to find a way to provide more of this cherished commodity that is so scarce in education.

ADOPTIONS:

Community Adoption Meeting

The Community Meeting on January 20, 2010 was not well attended, yet the meeting did provide an opportunity for members of the CMAAC committees to hear any concerns or issues from other members of the community and answer questions about the process. Considering that all those present were actual members of the three committees, there was only a brief discussion of next steps with the remainder of the time being spent on a discussion on how high school students might assist the middle school on decreasing bullying.

Although the third community meeting was set for March it will be postponed until April to allow more time for committee members to complete their work and to provide ample time to get the information out to the community. Hopefully this will increase attendance.

OTHER:

Odyssey Ware Preview

Dan Bentson-Royal and I took some time to preview Odyssey Ware, an online curriculum for grades 3-12. This is a series of online courses in a variety of core subject areas that is used widely by Internet Academies. Although there were some elements of the program that show promise, I would have to say that it also lacks some of the things I would like to see, i.e., interactive discussion between students. The representative did share that the online discussion element was in the works but there was no timeline for a release in the near future.

We will continue to investigate options.