

Chinese Language Consortium Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2009

9:30-12:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Elaine Schmidt- CBE (via video-conference), John Yee & Wei Wong – ECEBA, Wai-Ling Lennon- Alberta Education, Sigrid Olsen, Alberta Education, Dr. Wendy Jiang- Dept of East Asian Studies, Dr. Joe Wu –Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, Janice Aubry – IISLE, Stuart Wachowicz – EPSB, Norman Sieweke – IISLE, Melody Kostiuik - IISLE

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes of Last Meeting

- Stuart will distribute minutes from the last meeting.

Updates from Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE)

- now located permanently at Woodcroft School
- Languages Centre at Woodcroft houses IISLE and partner institutions such as Confucius Institute which holds office space for visiting teachers from China, library, administration, etc.
- courses were offered this spring for adults on Chinese language, calligraphy, dough art, music. Next year Chinese dance will be added to the course offerings.
- Base funding from the year has been received – nothing yet received to date for projects
- Some projects that will be pursued will include video exemplars of student skills based on CEFR
- 3 teachers from Shandong Province are coming in fall; costs paid by CIE to support classroom work, teachers in the CBP
- CIE expanding services to other districts, such as providing information on topics including social studies, globalization, etc.
- CIE will host a first lecture series – teacher from Communications University who will be presenting at LWB and will provide sessions to our teachers. These sessions will be made available via video-conferencing, possibly organize a session in Calgary; CBE will be put on a mailing list to receive information about upcoming work.
- EPSB will send a delegation to China – principals and lead teachers who are twinned with schools in June 28 – July 7 meet with ministry - work with twinning template to scope out activities for the next 3 years. Most of the costs are picked up by theca pays all the travel costs. The schools pay their hotel and travel in China. Hanban
- CI has partnered with Communications University in China and the Ministry of Education of Shandong province – 13 schools twinned with schools in EPS. A twinning template has been developed.
- YCT/HSK – 850 students will write

- China Bridge Competition was held last weekend- 60 contestants from across the province (5 from Calgary)

Update from IISLE

IISLE and CIE work collaboratively to provide support to classroom teachers:

- IISLE has a list of in-service sessions is available; 3 sets of 3 days of intensive in-services for new teachers will be delivered
- Support for principals is provided through sessions
- One-day conference
- Program Alignment Project – the development of a set of tools to help teachers and principals self reflect on characteristics and elements needed for effective programming
- IISLE and CIE are working with Argyll Centre at EPSB will offer a new Chinese on-line course for 6-Yr Chinese and Culture
- IISLE is also supporting Shandong project through assisting with e-pals/e-twinning

Update from ECBEA (see attachment for detailed report)

Important upcoming dates:

- May 16/17 Alberta Chinese Music Society concert
- May 24 1:00 awards ceremony will be hosted by ECBEA at McNally High School
- ECBEA will be inducted into the City of Edmonton Salute to Excellence Hall of Fame on June 7 at the Winspear

Update from CBE

- A group of students participated in the Chinese Bridge Competitions
- First group of junior high students wrote the HSK/YCT
- Underwent a review of bilingual program
- K-Grade 6 was relocated at King George School Chinese bilingual/FIM
- Decision to move to Pin Yin and simplified characters because of accessibility of resources – from grade 3 on traditional characters will be introduced in the program
- Positive increase in K-grade 1 enrolment
- Visiting teacher from China
- 16 students in grade 7-9 Language Arts and math in Langevin School

Update from University of Alberta Learning

East Asian Studies - Dr. Jiang

- Many staff changes –currently there are 4 full-time faculty members. Dr.Wang Quin will begin on July 1, 2009 as teaching staff, Daniel -comparative literature, Walter Davies

- The department will focus on attracting more Chinese majors
- Dr. Jiang will be on leave for 2 years
- University is a continuation of the Chinese bilingual program
- There will be a focus on four new courses geared to bilingual students in 2009– Chinese 407 (advanced reading and writing), Intercultural Communication, Chinese Culture...
- Content hours will be increased from three to five hours/week – Chinese 3-Year students will be affected
- China Study Program: the model has changed to transfer credits from Nanjing University to U of A. Students are required to complete a Permission to Participate Form that needs to be signed. 6 credits are offered for a 6-week course (May-June). Now costs are reduced because of a travel grant and paying of tuition directly to Nanjing University; tuition at U of A will be waived. Students need to complete at least one year of study at U of A

Action to be taken: Janice will organize a meeting between U of A faculty and high schools to discuss proposed articulation and proper placement of students in university courses – a date will be set.

Faculty of Education - Dr. Joe Wu

- Letter sent to Dean of Faculty of Arts requesting a translation course
- The translation certificate courses has been suspended
- Two graduate courses were offered: Methodology for L2 and a course for ESL
- Dr. Wu is currently writing a teacher's handbook for teaching Chinese as a second language in a North American setting. This is aimed at teachers in both China and North America.

Update from Alberta Education- Sigrid Olsen

- Publisher's draft of the Program of Studies Spanish 10/20/30 is available.
- Field validation of Chinese Language and Culture Program of Studies 9-Year is completed
- AB ED has funded Dr. Jim Cummins and Dr. David Little (CEFR) to
- Shunko Muroya, the Japanese advisor will be leaving this summer.
- Digital website for the Vancouver Olympics is being prepared for language students. Need for teacher PD.
- AB ED is in a state of re-structuring
- Grades 8,9,10, 11, and 12 field validation. Teacher reps from CBE EPS, ECS, Stettler. Feedback was provided by U of A.
- Chinese Language Arts K-Grade 6 – Assessment chapter is being revised
- Chinese Language and Culture 3-Year Guide to Implementation is being overwritten; feedback from teachers was provided
- CAMS (Classroom Assessment Materials) for grades 4, 5, 6 have been adapted for 10/20/30. the document will be posted and then feedback will be asked for through surveys

- a CD will be provided containing planning tools for Chinese language programs. This will be made available to all Chinese teachers in the province. Content will be translated into simplified and traditional characters. These will be distributed at the Languages Without Borders Conference.
- Wai-Ling Lennon (Chinese Resource Manager) will be leaving Alberta Education and returning to Edmonton Public Schools

Janice Aubry expressed concern around the significant decline in support for languages at the Ministry of Education, as evidenced through the departures and re-assignments of numerous managers without plans for replacing these positions.

CASLT Report

- many Chinese sessions will be offered at the upcoming Languages Without Borders Conference
- Many Chinese publishers will also be displaying their resources at the Languages Without Borders Conference.

Assessment Materials:

Actions:

EPSB will send a letter out to all partners of the consortium, attach April meeting minutes as there is a need to re-connect with partners
 Need to begin every year with review – common
 Elaine recommended that at the first meeting every year begin with an education update –

Janice moved that the Calgary Board of Education will chair the consortium for the 2009/10 school year with the University of Alberta chairing 2010- 2011 year. Wai-Ling seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at p.m.