

November 14, 2011

Upper Iowa University –conference room
4601 Hammersley Road
Madison, WI 53711

8:00 – 8:30 WELCOME AND NETWORKING

8:30 or 11:30 Programming Committees or Function Group may choose to meet OR New members may connect with mentors

8:30 – 9:30 **Large Group Presentation** – Martha Barlow *presenting*

Problem Solving: Do You Really Know What It Is?

What IS problem solving? It is a six-step process

- Work briefly through a model
- Analyze model
- Brainstorming, creative and critical thinking
- Involving stakeholders
- Information gathering
- Taking something nebulous and making it more concrete
- People often think problem solving is math- math is just a really specific type of problem solving
- A lot of different types
- Solution is independently created rather than learned with assistance—not one right answer. It is a process!
- You have to make a decision and there are multiple possibilities]
- A situation is complicated and present some challenges, but could be improved
- You want to anticipate potential problems in order to avoid them
- Involves 4 “C’s”: Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity
- Training in problem solving involves information fluency (technology tools), collaboration fluency, creative fluency and solution fluency.
- According to Ian Jukes, learning for the 21st century is about the HEADware, not the hardware. How do you use the tools to help you think and solve problems?

Circular Framework:

1. Understanding the Problem/Challenge: Mess finding, Data finding, problem finding; Research the problem; identifying challenges; Learn as much as possible about the situation; examine the situation from multiple perspectives; what are some challenges?
 2. Understand the underlying Problem: Here is where you set up your **action goal**. Start with “How might we...” Try to think of more than one; Generating Ideas: Idea finding; What are MULTIPLE ideas for accomplishing th4e goal? Who will be in charge?
 3. Planning/Preparing for Action—from all of your ideas, what is the BEST one? Set up criteria. Make it happen—Action plan
- Try it out: <http://www.greaterdanetag.org/documents/LinksforProblemSolving.doc> Too often students are unwilling to take a risk—just TELL me what to do. They don’t want or do not have the skills to

enter in to a problem solving process. The process needs to be taught over time and followed through over time.

If you give kids a problem and follow the process that is a good first step. But they ALSO need to reflect on the process—the metacognitive process. If you can refer to a set of criteria

Find out about training through www.greaterdanetag.org or the state WIS-gift. The two day workshop is the best training.

The curriculum that has been created is discussed in the next section.

9:40 – 10:10 **Small Group Session #1 (Choose one of the three)**

Problem Solving (continued from Large Group Session)—

Martha Barlow described the curriculum available that teaches the process within the regular classroom. Not only does it teach the process but it also helps students learn the tools used for problem solving. The \$50.00 cost includes background information, Integration and implementation options, an outline of thinking tools and problem solving skills. It also includes lesson plans for the use of the following tools: The 21st Century student; Critical and Creative Thinking; Generating with Group Brainstorming; Generating with Brainwriting; Focusing with Hits (key ideas) and Hot Spots (categorizing ideas and prioritizing); Generating with Checklisting – SCAMPER; Focusing with an Evaluation Matrix. Eight problem solving experiences that are adaptable for a classroom situation complete the curriculum.

Identification – Grades K-5—Lucia Rowley

- Interest in comparing what districts are using for the following:
 - Current Individualized Learning Plans – ILP
 - Flow charts
 - How are districts using the data?
 - What does the referral process look like?
- What identification tool is realistic for a district to implement in the areas of creativity and leadership?
What does programming look like so that districts are in compliance?
 - Beloit is currently piloting Torrance with PD given to second grade teachers who are piloting the assessment
 - Future Problem Solvers used in some districts
 - Some districts are focusing on music identification this year
 - Destination Imagination
- What universal screeners are being used in districts?
 - What is the status of the HOPE scale? Is it available online yet?
 - What are the cut scores that are being used? Top 5%? Percentiles vs. RIT scores?
 - Dibbles, MAP, running records

Moodle Demo—Sharon Daly

Discussion was held about how Moodle is being used and can be used in districts by GT staff. Sharon Daly shared that in Cambridge, Moodle is used for professional development. District book reads, information and resources related to content, district initiatives, Rtl, technology etc. are in Moodle. Forum discussions allow teachers to talk with each other and have rich conversations around the topics. Sharon also provides courses for graduate credit that are online in Moodle to teachers in her district. They have been well received and have helped train staff on topics that directly relate to improving student learning outcomes. GT personnel can utilize Moodle in a variety of ways: to post handy resources related to differentiation,

formative assessment, cool tools, etc. and to work directly with students in a more flexible way than Face-to-Face allows for.

For students, Moodle can be used to enhance discussions, have book clubs, post resources, video, etc. Teachers can differentiate content for diverse learners and it works for blended learning at all grade levels.

Moodle is completely free so it is a viable option for many districts.

10:10 – 10:45 **Small Group Session #2 (Choose one of the three)**

Rtl – Grades K-5—Lucia Rowley

- It seems the pressure in schools is to focus on the lower end, how do we get the schools to pay attention to the other end?
 - Teacher designated to work with students on student council, FPS, Word Masters, etc.
 - How do you get students to choose these options?
 - Students apply, creating a tradition, student promoting.
- What materials are being used?
 - Analogies
- How is RTI time being used with gifted students?
 - Clustering groups with the GT resource teacher, sometimes they are occurring all at the same time, difficult to get to everyone.
 - Using Creative Problem Solvers at this time, a primary version of FPS
 - Staggering times so that the necessary resource people are available.
- Cambridge Model – 6 week strand model, students are chosen based on interest levels for clusters. Teachers generate materials with GT help differentiating critical thinking questions. Sharon will share materials.
- Collaboration time with teachers to plan and flexibly group
 - Cambridge 1st grade teachers with the help of volunteers and librarian use a 2 hour block of time to look at data, plan together, and flexibly group. The students are working at stations set up by the parent volunteers and librarian in the library.
- SIP meetings, (here's where my notes begin getting sketchy☺) Sheri at Beloit shared.

High School Programming—Amy Miller . The discussion included the following:

- What Advanced Placement Courses are offered in different districts
- Challenge in all districts is the lack of rigor for Freshman and Sophomores as they “wait for AP course opportunities” Future discussion will be of how we can support differentiation of courses
- For future discussions, what supports should be in place for gifted students grades 9-12. (meetings either one on one or group, etc.) and what topics should be discussed at different grade levels

Google Docs—Lynda Oleinik

10:45-10:50 Professional Development Schedule

November Meeting

Large Group Presentation – Problem Solving – Do You Really Know What It Is? (Martha Barlow presenter)

Small Group Session #1

1. Problem Solving (continued from Large Group presentation)
2. Identification – (grades K-5)
3. Moodle Demo – (Sharon Daly, presenter)

Small Group Session #2

1. Rtl (grades K-5)
2. High School Programming (Amy Miller presenter)
3. Google Docs

January Meeting

Large Group Presentation – Achievement Motivation (Carol Wilson Family Achievement Clinic Presenter?)

Small Group Session #1

1. Advocacy (grades 6-12)
2. Underachievement (grades K-5) (Carol Wilson presenter?)
3. Outside Opportunities for Kids (WCATY presenter?)

Small Group Session #2

1. Underachievement (grades 6-12)(Carol Wilson, presenter?)
2. Outside Opportunities (WCATY presenter)
3. Rtl (grades K-5) Flow chart

March Meeting

Large Group Presentation – I Pad (Presenter?)

Small Group Session #1

1. I Pad (grades K-5)
2. Data Collection (grades 6-12)
3. Assessment (grades K-5)

Small Group Session #2

1. I Pad (grades 6-12)
2. Resources for Language Arts (grades K-8)
3. Data Collection (grades K-5)

May Meeting

Large Group Presentation – Professional Development in Your District (Lucia Rowley – Facilitator?)

Small Group Session #1

1. Implementation of Michael Clay Thompson Curriculum in your district
2. Differentiation DVD and Discussion (grades 6-12)
3. Resources for Math (grades K-5)

Small Group Session #2

1. Math Resources (grades 6-12)
2. Differentiation DVD and Discussion (grades K-5)
3. Social Bookmarking (grades 6-12) (Martha Barlow presenter)

Full Day Technology Training – Date to be announced

Variety of opportunities for drop in support

Schedule will be posted in advance for members to register

For New Members-

Greater Dane County TAG Network will create a list of members who are willing to go to visit new members in district and/or host visits in their district to help mentor new members.

Current Member who have committed to mentor (we need more 😊)

- Martha Barlow – Waunakee
- Amy Miller - Oregon
- Laura Borsechnik - Stoughton

Ideas for UW Whitewater, Whitewater TAG and Greater Dane TAG for presenters

2011-12 – Michael Clay Thompson Grammar and Language Workshop

2012-13 - Rick Wormli – Differentiating for Gifted Students

Ideas for Greater Dane County TAG Parent Events- Dates, Times and Locations TBD

1. Madison will work to coordinate one event – topic TBD
2. Waunakee, Oregon and Stoughton will work to coordinate an event on Achievement Motivation

New Meeting Time Schedule

8:00-8:30 – Arrive and network

8:10-8:30 or 11:30-12:00 – Programming Committees or Function Groups may choose to meet

8:10- 8:30 or 11:30- 12:00 – New Members and Mentors may choose to meet

8:30- 9:30 a.m. – Large Group Professional Development

9:30-9:40 a.m. – Break

9:40- 10:10 a.m. – Small Group Session #1

10:10- 10:45 a.m. – Small Group Session #2

10:45- 10:55 a.m.- WATG and/or WCATY Updates

10:55- 11:30 a.m. – Business Meeting

10:50 – 11:10 ORGANIZATION UPDATES

UW Whitewater Update – Scott Peters is still planning on summer course as reported by President, Amy Miller

WCATY/UW Update

College for Kids information available for each district. Registration: classes fill VERY quickly! Purpose is **exposure** to a wide variety of experiences—not just a focus on one area. Good broadening for students. Would like to move to an electronic format but are not there yet. **Always looking for facilitators for the 5th grade CFK.** Available for a 3-credit course. Good opportunity for the 5th grade child of a teacher—facilitate, get credit and your child can attend.

College for Kids II for students going into 9th grade. 125 students. Great success; rigorous courses. Concentrating on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) fields; Math component was the weakest so looking for someone to teach an innovative, rigorous curriculum for math. If you know of anyone, contact Nancy Blake. Course facilitators are paid. All students met as a group in the morning for a presentation. Examples include: the life of a researcher; life of a college student; life of a high school student in preparation for college. UW will run it again. They have room to grow the program so send students. Limited scholarship dollars because of reduction in resources. Registration is the same as CFK. Deadline to submit is February 1.

WATG Update No November update. Will join us next time. Focus will be on Advocacy and HS Programming

11:10-11:30 BUSINESS MEETING

- Call to order: 11:10
- Minutes – Kitty Ver Kuilen. Summary delivered. Move to accept by Lynda Oleinik; seconded by Lucia Rowley. Motion passed.
- Treasurer’s Report – Kristy Champion. Hard copy given to membership; move to approve by Lynda Oleinik; seconded by Lucia Rowley. Motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Professional Development** – the consensus is to bring Michael Clay Thompson to the area but other options were noted.
 - Grant written to bring **Rick Wormeli**, a nationally known speaker about differentiating— particularly for middle schools.
 - We would also like to bring **Michael Clay Thompson** back. He has written a highly effective Grammar and Vocabulary program. It also includes poetry and literature units. His grammar program targets grades 4 – 12; Cost is \$149 for two days. CESA 2 can no longer support us (no gifted programming). We could not partner with UW-Whitewater and work through the grant process within the specified timeline. Would GDCTG and Whitewater TAG want to partner to bring him in? Is this something we are interested in and would we be interested in sponsoring? This program is a systematic. Resources were available for the membership to peruse. Cost: is \$6300 for two days which does not include food. Would like to get 50 people. Could open it to the state. Is this a GT initiative or a curriculum issue? It really makes a difference in standardized test scores. Skills transfer to other curricular areas. Would love to have all teachers of Language Arts use this program (Cambridge). Suggest testimonials from Cambridge and Oregon to help sell the program to the districts. In the future, a single basal will not be sufficient to meet common core standards.

Next steps: Amy will create a resource sheet that can be distributed; include testimonials, who is using it? Time? Suggest February to March. Brainstorm places to hold the event: Waunakee, Janesville, CESA 2 office. We will look into cost, time and his availability. Need to avoid end of first semester and beginning of February which is WSRA Feb. 2 – 4, 2012). Marketing packet, dates, availability of Michael Clay Thompson. Suggest that we include panel of people who have used the program to address how it is used in the curriculum & outcomes of its use.

- **David Lohman**: COLGAT re: gifted & Rtl will keep him in mind
- **Identification/Differentiation/Rtl** – Laura Borschnik & Janelle Dorn. How to get people to focus on the higher level kids; how are you using your Rtl time, what materials are being used?

FUNCTION GROUPS

- **Sunshine** – Barb Hoeft Robin Corelli—struggling with skin cancer; cards welcome: Address available upon request. 108 Cedar Circle; Poynette, 53955
- **Administrators Breakfast** – February 7. Barb Hoeft & Amy Miller are organizing. Save the date will be emailed out December 1.

STUDENT PROGRAM GROUPS

- **Yahara River Writers** – Ruth Frawley assignments are on the website: p 6 of the pdf document. will contact district contact persons
 - **Yahara Judging Co-Chairs** -Mary Loeffler and Jean Hilby. Thank you for stepping up to volunteer!

- **Math 24** – Lindsay Passwaters. Still need north 4th grade; Evansville will do 7th grade South side. Thank you!
- **Math Meets** – Kitty Ver Kuilen. Math Meet booklet available on the web. Host schedule distributed. Both 5/6 and 7/8 Regionals are now the same due to participation by schools at both levels.
- **Haiku** – Carole Mason Entries due February 1st; Event is Scheduled for April 16th at Eagle School at 7:00 PM

NEW BUSINESS

- **SENG Initiative.** Goal is to have collaborative sessions: Marshall/Deerfield and Stoughton/Evansville/McFarland/Oregon. Lynda Oleinik move to use up to \$500 to purchase resources and a container to hold those resources through GDCTG for use at SENG trainings. Martha Barlow second; Will feature a Break-out in January. Lynda will send out survey to determine what resources are needed; Kitty Ver Kuilen will purchase the resources. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjuourned: 11.40

NEXT MEETING: January 26 2012

NEXT MEETING – January 26, 2012

- Yahara river Writers contest Entries Due
- Math Meet tests available for hosts
- SENG
- Large Group Presentation: Achievement and Motivation with Carole Wilson