

Montevallo Connection Retreat

May 7, 2008

Student Retreat Center

Participants: Earl Cunningham, John Wright, David Nichols, Jane Clayton, Donna Dixon, Meg Pepper, Cynthia Shackelford, Stacia Love, Glee Whitsett, Sharon Anderson, Betty Walker, Judy Simmons, Kristen Gilbert, Rebecca Beaty, Vanessa Nason, Eva Frost, Hollie Cost, Joe Walsh, Jody Anders, Meredith Smith, Annette Mohan, Debra Payne, Sally Bell, Kathy McEntee, Jenifer Moore, Annie McClain, Philip Williams, Terry Roberson, Anna McEwan and Shannon Lee.

Item #1: Welcome/Opening Comments

Dr. Hollie Cost welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves and provide a little information about themselves to the group.

Item #2: Minutes

Members were asked to review and share with Shannon Lee any necessary changes to our March 6, 2008 meeting minutes.

Item #3: Montevallo Connection Power Point Presentation

Dr. Cost detailed the purpose of the Montevallo Connection program. She stated that we all know that cooperation between schools, communities and universities enhances the effectiveness of preschool through graduate school teachers and increases preschool through graduate school student learning. She shared some of the activities the Montevallo Connection program has participated in along with what other events and activities the program can do in the future.

Item #4: Montevallo Educational Compact signing

Dr. Cost turned the meeting over to Dr. Elaine Hughes where she gave a brief overview and historical background of the Montevallo Educational Compact that was originally decreed on January 19, 1994. At the conclusion of her overview, Dr. Phillip Williams, President of Montevallo; Dr. John L. Wright from the Shelby County Board of Education; Mayor Sharon Anderson, Mayor of the City of Montevallo; Dr. Annie McClain from Montevallo Elementary School; Dr. Vanessa M. Nason, Principal from Montevallo Middle School; Ms. Judy Simmons from Montevallo High School; and Ms. Rebecca D. Beaty from American Village all signed the new Montevallo Educational Compact and other attendees initialed the May 7, 2008 compact.

Item #5: Introduction of 2008 -2009 Executive Committee

Dr. Hollie Cost introduced the 2008-2009 Montevallo Connection Executive Committee which includes Dr. Hollie Cost, Director; Dr. Jenifer Moore, MES Liaison; Dr. Joe Walsh, MMS Liaison; Dr. Glee Whitsett, MHS Liaison; Dr. Sally Bell, Dr. Michelle Duran, McClure; M. Amanda Fox, Ms. Eva Frost, Dr. Kristin Gilbert, Dr. Jody Landers, Ms. Stacia Love, Ms. Meg Peppers, Ms. Cynthia Shackelford, and Dr. Jill Wicknick.

Item #6: Review of 2007-2008 Goals & Completed Projects

Dr. Cost shared some of the goals and the status of each for Montevallo Elementary School.

1. Develop Summer Programming – status: reading program completed in summer 2007 and a program is being developed for summer 2008.
2. Create a mentoring/ pen pals program – status: Literacy block students have been paired with MES students for this program.
3. Collaborate to host Awesome Author’s day – status: UM students directed groups for the fourth consecutive year.
4. Projects/Lab assignments include: United we read; Duty-free lunch; Social skills groups; Camp Cosby scholarships; and Lab/internship placements.

Dr. Walsh shared some of these goals and the status of these goals for Montevallo Middle School.

1. Enhance technology at the school – status: UM provided computers and projector to MMS under the direction of Dr. Joe Walsh.
2. Develop a mentorship program – status: Dr. Nason has been working on this mentorship program.
3. To establish a school-wide tutoring program – status: This goal is currently in the developmental stages and Dr. Nason has been working on this.
4. Projects include: Microscope donations from UM’s Science Dept.; Poetry and writing workshops with UM’s English Dept.; and a MMS counselor presented to UM pre-service teachers.

Dr. Whitsett shared some of these goals and the status of these goals for Montevallo High School.

1. To provide scholarships for dual enrollment students – status: Scholarships were awarded in spring 2008.
2. To provide Montevallo teachers with the opportunity to audit UM courses free – status: free auditing program began in spring 2008.
3. To increase opportunities for MHS faculty and students to be involved with UM faculty and resources – status: Science in Motion is being utilized and Dr. Alex Bruce, the Chair for the UM English Dept, spoke to AP classes as MHS.
4. To place UM candidates in Montevallo schools – status: Phase II students began being placed fall 2007.

Item #7: Discussion of Proposed/Planned Connections

Dr. Cost shared proposed/planned connections for our upcoming years. These goals include:

1. Future Falcons: Develop a half-day program at each school comprised of age appropriate activities that would promote students’ interest in attending college.
2. Meeting material needs: Create an ongoing mechanism for meeting the excess material needs of the schools by identifying surplus community resources.
3. Montevallo Elementary School:
 - a. Provide ESL mentoring

- b. Develop math night, reading night and science night.
 - c. Develop Young Author's night for all students
 - d. Provide an after-school tutoring program
 - e. Provide a school-wide social skills training program.
4. Montevallo Middle School:
- a. Create technology or gaming group
 - b. Develop summer computer camp
 - c. Continue facilitating mentoring program
5. Montevallo High School:
- a. Create opportunities for poetry players to present.
 - b. Develop science connections between UM and MHS faculty.
 - c. Develop a high-school student summer research institute to better prepare MHS students for college education.

Item #8: Small Group Planning

Those present divided into small groups to discuss and review needs, our goals, steps of action, a timeline and the responsible individuals.

Montevallo Elementary School group members: R. Beaty, B. Walker, M. Pepper, A. McClain, K. Gilbert, M. Smith.

Montevallo Middle School group members: E. Frost, J. Nason, J. Walsh

Montevallo High School group members: G. Whitsett, a. Mohan, J. Clayton

Material Needs group members: D. Payne, C. Shackelford, S. Love, M. Hicks.

Future Falcon Planning Committee: S. Bell

Lunch

Item #9: Group Presentations

Montevallo Elementary School

- Young Author's Day Writing Celebration for all students: Our goal is to host an event during the school day similar to YAC that every student can enjoy. A committee will need to be formed and an event date set. *A. Harrison will be responsible for this project.*
- Social Skills Training for at-risk students: Our goal is to improve citizenship and social skills school-wide by identifying students who qualify. *H. Cost & L. Martin will be responsible for this project.*
- Adult mentoring for ELL students: Our goal is to involve UM Spanish students. We need to e-mail R. Harshman and E. Vaccarella to initiate contact. They will need to meet to create a program and set dates for implementation. *M. Smith will be responsible for this project.*
- Academic Nights which include Math Night, Social Studies Night and Science Night: Our goal is to get parents, students and teachers to attend content nights to celebrate fun

learning. We will need to form a committee, set dates, plan the event nights and implement. *H. Franks will be responsible for this project.*

- After-School Tutoring Program expanded for 1-5: Our goal is to increase academic achievement by using think Link Assessments to identify students that qualify. *S. Chadwick, H. Cost, K. McEntee, and R. Heath will be responsible for this project.*

Montevallo Middle School

- Enhance Technology at MMS: Our goal is to create a one-week summer computer camp at UM library for implementation summer 2009. We need to develop a curriculum, identify instructors, coordinate resources and promote the camp at MMS. Possible topics include – how to do research on-line
- Mentorship program & tutoring program
- Characters in History: Get History or English teachers to provide a list of characters for UM theatre majors to portray characters & do a performance based on those characters.
- BEAM (Beginning Early at Montevallo): This program would expose MMS students to the Um college experience.

Rosemary Arneson, UM Library Director; and Jason Tiffin, tech technology teacher at MMS; will be responsible for this project.

Montevallo High School

- Allow MHS to tour UM & sit in on 101 classes. *G. Whitsett, A. Mohan & J. Clayton will be responsible for this project.*
- Character Ed. for athletes by getting UM/MHS directors together. *G. Whitsett & J. Clayton will be responsible for this project.*
- Sub list is needed. Reinvestigate the process to get UM 5th year qualified. *G. Whitsett will be responsible for this project.*
- Community Services needs: Jean Teens. *G. Whitsee & J. Clayton will be responsible for this project.*
- Mentorship program - *G. Whitsett & J. Clayton will be responsible for this project.*
- Opportunities for Poetry Posse to perform. *G. Whitsett will be responsible for this project.*
- Science Connection between UM & MHS: MHS students could visit the UM swamp. *G. Whitsett will be responsible for this project.*
- Foster Campus connections by visiting PD at MHS. *H. Cost, G. Whitsett, M. Peppers, S. Lapsley will be responsible for this project.*
- Conversations with MHS/UM faculty to discuss 5 in/5 out goals. *G. Whitsett & J. Clayton will be responsible for this project.*

Material Needs

- Allow school representatives to preview UM auction items and choose what they could use before the annual auction takes place. *D. Payne is responsible for this project.*
- Request funding from corporate sponsorships. *S. Love, D. Payne & C. Shackelford are responsible for this project.*

- On-Line bulletin board. Create a website/advertise through the Chamber of needs. *J. Walsh & S. Love are responsible for this project.*

Future Falcon Planning Committee

- Coordinator for UM Student Mentors needed to move students & conduct activities.
- Mentors needed: Possibilities – Athletes, Honors Program, UM Masters, upward Bound, Honors Societies, McNair.
- Liaison for all three schools will be needed.
- Activity coordinator – *Sally Bell will serve this role.*

Item #10: Closing comments & Adjournment

Dr. McEwan shared her thanks to all those present and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Submitted by: Shannon L. Lee, C & I Departmental Secretary