

REMC 13 Advisory Council Minutes

Professional Development and Business Meeting

December 11, 2008 • Holt High School

In Attendance Chris Alvarado, Teresa Asch, George Bishop, Pam Bostic, Christine Danhoff, Dan Davenport, Sandy Fields, Debbie Green, Angelina Zeller, Sue Hornbach, Kathy Kowalski, Kathy Long, Michele Mudar, Debra Overbey, Annette Pohl, Kristin Sandel, Sue Schwartz, Chris Turner, Mary Margaret Utess, Cyndi Webster, Melissa White

Professional Development

Jeff Cutler did a brief overview of all the new changes to the ProQuest databases that REMC 13 provides to their member schools. He gave us a sneak peak to the new eLibrary Curriculum interface which will debut by the new year. Melissa is checking with ProQuest on whether or not eLibrary Curriculum's Literature and History databases can have their own icon and access on the REMC Databases page. She is also checking if schools that are direct I.P. authenticated can receive statistics on the usage of the databases.

Business Meeting

REMC Reports

Instructional Materials Collection

- Discovery Changes
 - a. New student interface launches in January (has been delayed until the spring)
 - b. New DEN look in January (DEN members will have ready access to the Michigan DEN Blog and materials off of the main interface)
 - c. Changes to the admin side launches in January
 - d. Discovery training the morning of Advisory Council, February 24, 2009, at Lansing in the Hub and lab (all media specialists are invited). There will be registration information sent out in January.
- Web/MAX
 - a. Links to educational Web sites
 - i. We are attaching Web site links to our videos and DVDs so that teachers who check out content have additional material
 - b. Teacher Guide links
 - i. Teachers can now retrieve teacher guides for our instructional materials
 - ii. Plan ahead by looking at the teacher guides (often include blackline masters, activities, lesson plans).
- Blackboard
 - a. Scholar
 - i. A social bookmarking site contained within Blackboard with links to educational sites
 - b. ePortfolios
 - i. Students and teachers can begin creating their own school portfolio. There are templates for easy entry of material
 - c. Hit on highlights
 - i. Melissa will be creating a sheet with all the highlights of Blackboard and post on the Blackboard entry page.

- Learn 360
 - a. Looking for feedback on Learn 360
 - b. Chris Alvarado, Deb Teresa, Dan, Sue H, Kathy, Cindy have volunteered

Online Resources Review

A committee has been formed to shepherd the process of looking at online resources for REMC member schools. They are trying to determine a direction. There are some who are less than enamored with the eLibrary collection, but happy with the SIRS databases. Are we replicating the MEL collection? The group is looking at focused databases and possibly an online encyclopedia. Sharon Kubica is leading the process by looking at all the MEL databases and put them into grade-level categories. She will also be getting hold of other vendors to look at their products.

We are going to have a Web page with the resources for everyone to look at. There is a rubric and a Zoomerang survey that the reviewers will be able to fill out. March 26, 2009, 1:00-4:00, will be the next date of the committee meeting.

Co-operative Purchasing

- Varitronic supplies will no longer be on the Bid in January
- On the REMC Bid Web site in the "Bid Area" (bottom left), there are cross tabulations. You can do a find in the pdf doc and locate information on new products; e.g., 2009 supplies, Computer Bundles.

Professional Development

- Adobe Connect sessions
 - Melissa and Sue can now conduct meetings and training via Adobe Connect. You just need a computer with Internet access and let us know when you would like to connect with us on an issue. We can share desktops with each other so we can diagnose problems or teach a concept over Connect.

StarNET Update

- East Lansing, Mason, Ingham ISD, and Lansing are now connected! Timeline to connect to St. Johns is the end of this month. Haslett has offered to be a tester of the Discovery server.

Sharing

Deb Overbey shared the Camgrip—attaches to a Flip Camera's tripod thread for a no-slip Grip (only \$7.50 from Adorama.com).

Adjournment