

Curriculum Development, Pilot Programs and Evaluations Minutes

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Joanne Dempsey started the meeting at 11:07 a.m.; those on the call were: Maria Ramos, Tracy Frizzell, Helen Roberts, Marica Cullen, Joe Hinton, Annette Charles, Lauren McLaughlin, and Joanne Dempsey; Susan Ritacca recorded notes.

Joanne noted that our task for this call was to prioritize the goal list, deciding what is most doable immediately. She commented on items on the list as noted below.

2. GOALS FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, PILOT PROGRAM AND EVALUATION

- i. CPS Curriculum Evaluation: Review the CPS pilot program evaluation and determine successes and challenges and determine appropriate revisions, if any.
 - Joanne: The CPS pilot high school course is going through revision this year (2010-2011), so it will be difficult to figure out how to evaluate this because it is still in its early phase
- ii. Program Evaluation Criteria: Develop benchmarks for evaluating program effectiveness in terms of number students reached, Federal Core Competencies taught, integration of financial education program into core curriculum, and short/long term outcomes.
 - Joanne: It is realistic to talk about coming up with a good way to measure (matrix) what a successful program would include in either high school or k-8
- iii. Pilot Programs: Using the curriculum developed by CPS, explore the possibility of initiating a pilot program in a struggling county (e.g., Rockford) at select schools in order to further test the curriculum and develop additional data.
 - Joanne: The complete CPS survey data should be coming out soon so we will wait until we see it; may be too early to think of replicating CPS in another district.
- iv. Web Portal: Develop and annually update a web portal, accessible through various websites (e.g., CPS, ISBE, City Treasurer, State Treasurer, financial regulators), of financial education resources which have been vetted by financial education experts using a matrix designed to ensure compatibility with Federal Core Competencies and the mission of the working group.

- Noted that there is a national resource portal (JumpStart); if we are to have a portal, would need to vet all materials appropriately
- v. Resource Evaluation Matrix: Develop a matrix for identifying materials to be included on the web portal.
- This is doable.
- vi. Embedding Financial Education into Core Curriculum: Identify ways to embed financial education curriculum into other education mandates (e.g., math standards, Work Keys section of PSAE) to ensure sustainability and integration.
- **Also doable**

Discussion

- **Joanne: The first question we want to ask is, which items are possible to do? Need to prioritize the goals.**
 - **Annette: Possibility of vetting the curriculum is exciting. There is so much out there, we need a list and a way to vet the material. Could we build off the differences between Marty's high school and K-8 programs? The national DB is overwhelming because of its size**
 - **Helen: I think the first thing we need to do is actually to vet the materials before we put them up on a website.**
 - **Joanne: Do we want to address the web portal, the resource evaluation matrix and embedding into core curriculum because it seems like these three issues are related. Sounds like we should start with the resource evaluation matrix and identify which materials should be included in the portal**
 - **Helen: I think we should start with the resource matrix, then address the web portal, and then talk about embedding this into the core curriculum rather than trying to do them all at once**
 - **Annette: The availability of evaluation tools may be part of deciding if the curriculum is good to use or not. We should start with the matrix, but part of that should be an evaluation of the materials**
 - **Helen: Program evaluation criteria might be a good place to start**
 - **Joanne: We are a large committee; we should break into sections to better address these issues. One group should work on benchmarks for the program (Goal 2) and another on benchmarks for resource materials/vetting (Goal 5)**
 - **Helen: The resource matrix and program evaluations are related, but there are clear differences between materials and resources and it makes a difference how they are defined**
- vii. Service Learning Opportunities: Develop a series of service learning opportunities for each grade level.

- Joanne: Service learning opportunities seem doable? We need to create a list and decide if these ideas are viable or appropriate, although it may be a CPS decision more than ours
- Annette: Can you explain how this fits into our overall goals?
- Joanne: In the CPS course, service learning was part of the requirement. Asked Helen if she could give examples of CPS service learning projects done as part of the Fin. Lit. course.
- Helen: One program the students had to do was a tax awareness day where a presenter came in and it was all related to tax issues. Another was the students had to do peer financial literacy presentations and talk with younger students.
- Joanne: If anyone has ideas for types of service learning opportunities that could be included, can send Susan a list and this may be helpful in making recommendations to be included in the CPS program

Discussion:

- Joanne: Getting back to the matrix and program evaluation, should we break into groups to tackle the program evaluation criteria and resource evaluation matrix?
- Helen, Maria, and Joanne agreed to be on the committee to develop a program evaluation matrix
- Annette, Lauren, and Tracy (tentative) volunteered to be on the committee to develop a resource evaluation matrix.
- Joanne noted that given the overlap, the committees will want to share information
- Joanne: Will send an email out asking for others to commit to one of the groups; we will want to work on these over the next couple of months so that we can take them and apply them to the other pieces including the web portal and curriculum. With the program evaluation in place, this might even help Marty/CPS

3. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

We have established 2 subcommittees which will confer by the end of next week and set up a time to get together to work on these goals. Joanne will follow up with each group so we can start working on these and we will get back in touch with the group once these subcommittees have gotten together.

The two groups have been divided into:

Program Evaluation Criteria: Maria Ramos, Helen Roberts, Joanne Dempsey
and

Resource Evaluation Matrix: Tracey Frizzell, Lauren McLaughlin, Annette Charles

Adjourn 11:30am