

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



We seek to find connections between what we are learning and our life experiences; we are willing to question the assumptions that undergird our own ways of being and acting; we openly explore alternative ways of thinking and doing; and we open ourselves to new information and new ways of being in the world.

- Jack Mezirow, *Transformational Adult Education*



Vol. 6 No. 18

The "Spring is Sprung" Issue

March 21, 2007

Students and Staff Visit the Capitol



Left to Right: Marisela Vega, Kim Iwasko, Assembly member Ana Caballero, Natalie Carranco and Pia Bayuga

- Reported by Kim Iwasko

On March 12, CCAE Leg Day, The Steinbeck Chapter met with State Assembly member and Budget Committee Chair- John Laird. He was very agreeable to the De La Torre bill and said he supports it, supports the CAHSEE and our ability to offer remediation services... Understands the need to expand the Distance Learning Funding... He did a "shout out" to all of us in the Legislative Hearing... It was quite an honor for the students and our staff to be publicly acknowledged!

Senator- Abel Maldondando- met with new staffer... Chris Mower went to work with Governor... She was young and supportive and reassured us that she would talk to Abel...

State Assembly member Ana Caballero was amazing... She spent 37 minutes with us! Marisela Vega, a student from Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education and her heart felt story brought the Legislator to tears! Marisela talked about her 6 year old daughter wanting to quit school to go to work to help Marisela pay the bills so her Mom didn't have to work so hard... She new she had to come to WAAE and it has changed her life. It has helped her entire family's life... It was amazing... She said she would support 60% if it helped students succeed at learning new skills to improve their lives! She supports CTE and agreed that we need to be eligible to partner with ROP, Community Colleges and High schools.. She is a friend of Adult Education! We invited her to come to our school. She might be a wonderful person to have for our Institute of English Language opening at Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education planned for Summer of 2007!

Department Chair Elections

It's time again to have elections in all of our departments for the chair position. The term for chairs is two years, and this term will see an increasingly important role for chairs as they serve on the School Council, which will evaluate our Focus on Learning self-study and craft the School Action Plan that will guide for, perhaps, the next several years. If any teacher is interested in the chair position, please formally notify Bob by Friday, March 30. We will have elections in April, and by the first of May we will know the members of the School Council. For new teachers, know that the School Council is where many important decisions are made.

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education School Council

3 / 14 / 07

Minutes - reported by A.V. Coyle

The mission of Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education is to prepare a diverse population of adult students for success in the community – at work and leisure – as citizens, parents and lifelong learners.

Present: Cynthia Stark, Lynn Simons, Natalie Castillo, Jack Carroll, Teresita Marchisello, Amy Jewell, Eloisa Sanchez, Cary Keisler, Pam Sexton, Marta Bechhoefer, AV Coyle

Welcome, Pam

We welcomed Pam Sexton, representing Parent Education, to the meeting.

Student of the Week; Adult Education Week proclamation

Cynthia reported that the School Board presentation of the Student of the week award to Eliza Collazo was very moving and touching. Eliza started out in WAAE ESL, then moved to Office Skills, GED, and now is in the Parent Ed/Even Start class at Freedom Elementary. Cynthia invited us to attend the March 14 (tonight!) Board meeting when we will be presented with a proclamation in honor of Adult Education week.

Legislative Day

Natalie reported that Kim Iwasko, she and 2 students, Maricela Vega and Pia B, enjoyed their day in Sacramento at the Capitol. Our legislators enjoyed talking with the students, and John Laird introduced them to the legislature. Our legislators all support bills on Distance Learning, Adult Education-provided remediation classes for CAHSEE, and support for including Adult Ed in CTE funding.

Institute of Language and Culture (ILC)

The ILC is scheduled for a summer school opening, and it's hoped that the May Advisory Council meeting and the ESL awards ceremony will take place there. We have just purchased 12 wood storage cabinets and several small wood teacher desks at a bargain price. Granite Rock's generous donation of \$40,000 with the possibility of an additional \$10,000 will fund the state-of-the-art computer room. We still are looking the possibility of moving all classes from the Porter Building, with ESL occupying the ILC and the Learning Center possibly located in the ILC or another downtown site.

Communication

We agreed several months ago, as an implementation of our 2002 Action Plan to strengthen communication, that all WAAE staff will use PVUSD email as their primary means of electronic communication. This includes all Focus on Learning Communication. Any staff member who does not yet have a PVUSD email address should see Natalie as soon as possible. (And anyone who wants to use eclass management, which is encouraged, can have a short training from Debbie).

Calendar

Cynthia re-introduced the idea of a trimester calendar, explaining that students persist more when they have shorter term goals and that paired CASAS scores would be easier to capture with the shorter periods. There was a short discussion and several questions, and further consideration of the issue was tabled until a later date.

Focus on Learning - School Council Report

Measurement of student goal achievement

Cynthia presented the 2005-06 WAAE Table 4, "Educational Gains and Attendance by Educational Functioning Levels." This table lists benchmarks achieved through paired CASAS testing scores for ABE, ASE and ESL. As good a school as we are, the numbers do not support that our students are learning what they come to learn simply because we lack the data. It is imperative that we work much harder to achieve the paired scores! Natalie explained that because we do not yet have a data match (AIM does not "talk to" TOPSPRO) we still have many instances of missing student data that are not caught. We are working on getting that data match. The responsibility for complete registration forms falls on the teachers, however, and the office continues to work on processes and support to make the data entry more complete and easier. Data on comparative annual enrollment, attendance and average hours per student was distributed.

Focus on Learning

1. Reports from Cynthia (on Visiting Team to Hayward Adult School), AV (on Visiting Team to Monterey Adult School) and Marta (just returned from WASC training for schools to be visited in 2008).

Cynthia reported on the importance of data collection and records of evidence that students are learning. She referred to Table 4 to underscore the importance of demonstrating that students are achieving both class goals and student goals (also known as ESLRs). AV built upon that theme, emphasizing that documenting learning gains is a critical issue. More structured formats for providing student performance data can support the student in his/her learning while documenting our effectiveness. She observed that we are well on our way in the FOL process because we have an established leadership team knowledgeable of the FOL process, a history of leadership participation, and lots of enthusiasm. Marta reiterated that observation, based on her experience that afternoon at the training, and reinforced the importance of evidence (data) on student achievement of course objectives and student goals. [See the attached Table, "An idea for assessment... (Data)" for an example of one simple way of recording student achievement. A table such as this could be included in each student's folder, and the students themselves would love to see and track their own progress].

2. Reports from Student Council members on the Home Group and Focus Group meetings

The comments from the group, including those made by Cynthia, AV and Marta, were listed on charts. (Do you see a theme???)

Organization for Student Learning

- We need to look at our course outlines and measure student progress on the objectives.
- Course outlines should include CASAS competencies.
- There is a concern for school safety in the wake of car robberies and thefts at Green Valley. It is scary in the evenings in the parking lot, including at outlying sites.
- We need to strengthen our ties to the community through scholarships, community support and enrichment opportunities.
- We need to pay close attention to Table 4.

Curriculum and Instruction

- We need to increase paired CASAS scores to show student achievement.
- We need to pay close attention to Table 4.

Focus on Learning - School Council Report

- WASC is moving toward measurable objectives, with everything shifting to analyzing hard student data.
- We need to be aware of our course outlines, with objectives reflecting standards, student goals and CASAS competencies.
- We need to encourage our teachers to gather hard evidence of student achievement.
- How do we define goals/benchmarks for Parent Ed?
- WAAE student goals are “very Santa Cruz,” making it difficult to measure accomplishment.
- How can we facilitate students moving from department to department (e.g., Advanced ESL students being made aware of and then moving on to next step opportunities within WAAE)?
- We need more staff development and more time to meet and plan.
- We hope Independent Study for the HSD will come back to the LC.
- We need more frequent GED testing at the jail – but we also need to look at numbers: do the numbers warrant it?
- How often are Student Satisfaction Surveys administered?
- Student Satisfaction Surveys do not show the views of those who leave before the end of the term. LC students have a low Student Satisfaction Survey rate because students finish at different times during the year.

General comments:

- We are on top of it!
- A successful FOL process does not mean having it all together. What’s important is that we know where we are, our strengths and growth areas, and are doing something about it.
- We need process guidelines for Home Groups.
- Every classified member serves on a Home Group.
- Home Group members expressed a need to receive materials the week before the meeting.
- What are our next steps for the entire FOL process?

Support for Student Academic and Personal Growth

- For academic support to be successful personal growth must go with it.
- The ESL Orientation is very cool. But it doesn’t happen consistently, it doesn’t continue. It happens informally with teachers.
- We need more students crossing over departments.
- We have to strengthen our ties to the community.

Resource Management and Development

- We must get paired CASAS scores for funding! 30% is not enough.
- How do we record accomplishment of goals for completers (e.g., GED/ HSD & other students finishing programs)?
- We need to pursue grants.
- We need to look at the resources we have and be sure that they are used fully (e.g., Parent Ed van)

Copies of (1) the Student Goals, (2) Course Outlines, and (3) a template for Course Outlines (see attached) were distributed. Each department will review and, if necessary, update its course outlines between now and the end of the calendar year, and chairs were encouraged to re-familiarize their members with the student goals and course outlines. Big thanks were extended to Eloisa, who made copies of all the course outlines. These are available from Eloisa electronically, also. Notes from the February 27 & 28 Focus Groups were distributed.

Focus on Learning - School Council Report

3. Process for March 26-30 Home Group meetings

With all this information in mind, we affirmed a process for Home Group meetings. See attachment: Suggested Process for March 26-30 Home Group meetings.”

4. Timeline for FOL process

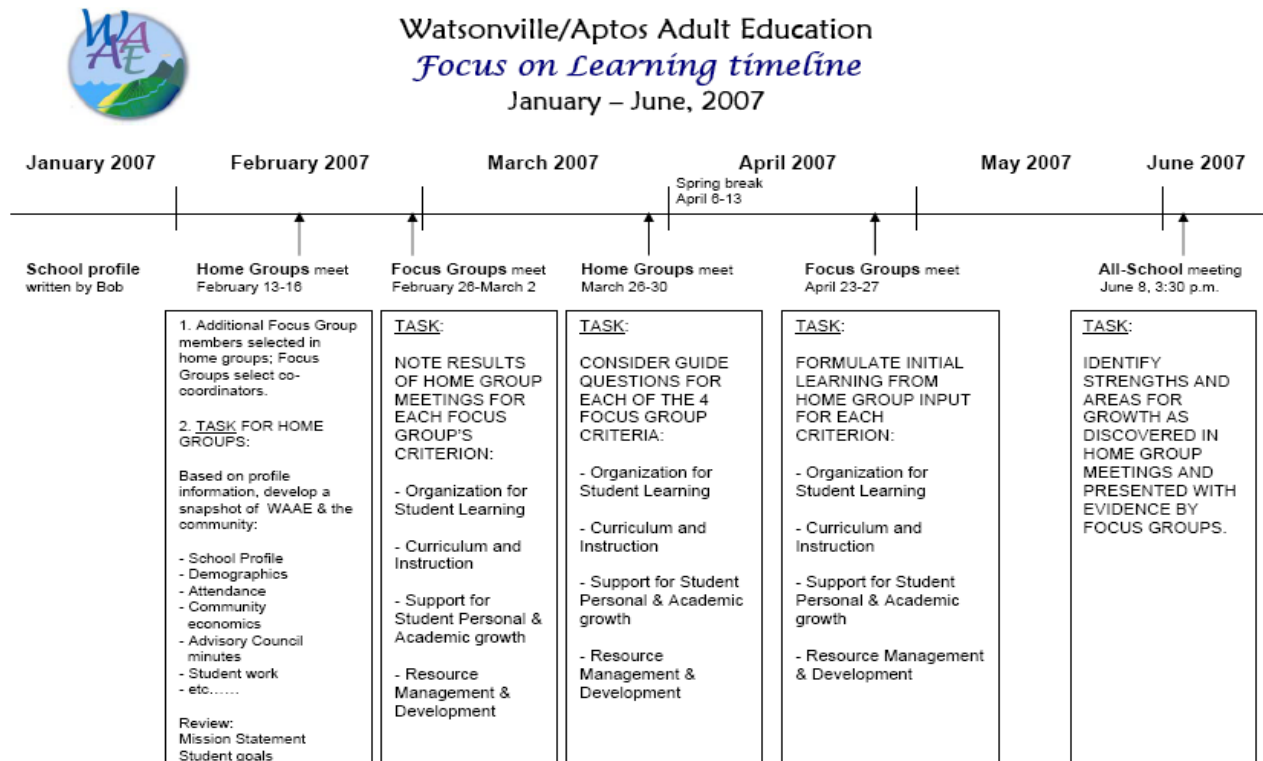
Time did not permit our extending the timeline for the process. Please see the “FOL Timeline, January – June 2007” in your FOL binder for the timeline through this semester.

Department Chair elections

Elections will take place in April. Department chairs are asked to inform their department members of the elections and encourage them to consider this role themselves and/or encourage others who would be good chairs. Department Chair job descriptions were distributed with the comment that they need updating. A comprehensive new organizational chart was distributed. Thanks to Natalie for such an excellent chart.

Fund raiser for Edie

Bonni announced a drawing for one of her beautiful paintings as a fund raiser to help Edie with the unexpected and extraordinary costs of her recovery. Tickets will be \$10 each, and Natalie will make a flyer and tickets. The high seller also will receive a Bonnie Carver painting! Everyone affirmed the fundraiser, and we thanked Bonni for the great idea and the generous donation of her paintings.





WAAE Calendar

Spring Semester Dates:

Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007

Student Councils

(if possible, encourage the same students to attend every meeting, give students time and support to report to the whole class, and help us figure out how to expand the councils to more than ESL from the the two main sites.)

April 17 (Porter), April 18 (GV)

Agenda: Review drafts for schoolwide questionnaires

May 22 (Porter), May 23 (GV)

Agenda: Representation in Focus Groups and All School meeting

March 25-30

Home Groups Meet

ESL Home Group: If you teach in the morning, please come to Room 6 at Porter on Tuesday, March 27 at 11:45. If you teach in the evening, please come to Room 6 at Porter on Thursday, March 29 at 8:30. Please dismiss your classes early to allow for travel time.

Lifelong Learning Home Group: Tuesday, March 29, 4:00-5:00, Green Valley

March 30 - Notice of Intent to run for Department Chairs due to Natalie.

Spring Break (no classes)

April 6-15

**Community Advisory Council Meeting
In the Institute of Language and Culture!
May 16, 10:00-noon**

**Adult Education Graduation!!
Friday, June 1, 7-00 p.m.**

**ALL SCHOOL MEETING - PAID!!
Please save the date and make every effort to attend.
Friday, June 8, 3:30pm - 5:30pm.**

**GRAND OPENING - COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!!
The Institute of Language and Culture
Friday, June 29**

Save the Date!

**Summer School (Tentative)
Thursday, July 5 - Saturday, August 4.**