

WRITING COMMITTEE

East Valley School District

October 30, 2008

8:00 – 11:00

ATTENDING: Melanie Delaney, Lauren Waterbury, Estella Cordes, Kendrie Seaman, Tessa Pratt, Teresa Totton, Tammy Hovren, CarolAnn Mountjoy, Dristina Cysewski, Donna Simon, Marlene, Lock, Ellen Hopkins

1. Read and share parts of *Best Practices In Writing* by: Steve Graham
 - a. Large amount of time writing
 - b. Rubrics with stretch
 - c. Growing as teachers
 - d. Little pre-service training in writing
 - e. Formulaic writing common
 - f. Writing seems to be superficial in grade 11 in EV
 - g. Teachers must see change (reform) as worth the effort
2. Time spent on year long plan in grade levels.
3. Miscellaneous
 - a. the book shared a scenario where content area teachers at the secondary level used staff development time to plan out what writing looked like in their content. EV SHOULD DO THIS ALSO.
 - b. Donna and Stella are to locate building generated convention/skill document
 - c. Donna is to send an expository “folded paper” format that she utilizes
4. Next Meeting
 - a. Full day during the last 2 weeks of January
 - b. Need computer access
 - c. Need a common template to put year long plans into
 - d. Get secondary content teachers on board
 - e. MAKING PROGRESS THIS YEAR!!! YEAH!!!!

WRITING COMMITTEE

East Valley School District

October 30, 2008

12:30 – 3:30

ATTENDING: Mona Marlett, Katrina Fuher, Sheryl Caldwell, Mary Melby, Joanie Wiecks, Lesley Grant, Ellen Hopkins

1. Frustration on developing “Units of Study”.
 - don’t know how to teach writing
 - don’t know how to construct a prompt
 - a need for writing rubrics
 - discussion about handwriting (Handwriting Without Tears)
 - have Lucy Calkins/Story Grammar – Just tell me HOW???
 - resource room teachers are responsible for IEPs but don’t have consistent information or complete information
 - we need “Lucy Calkins” training
 - need long term staff development plan
 - Lucy “is the vertebrae” need research and practice to extend
 - scaffold and specify for primary with the same materials

2. What would your GLE be for 40 days into the year?

	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
40 day “EV” GLE	-discover .?! and word -discover sounds at beginning, middle, end -draw a picture and tell about the picture	-write a sentence with a capital and a period that makes sense and is on topic.	-4 - 5 sentences with a capital and period -add details -topic sentence
End Of Year “EV” GLE	-write a sentence that matches the picture with capital and punctuation mark	-3 – 5 sentences on topic with capitals, punctuation, legible handwriting and non-negotiable words spelled correctly	-Write a complete story with a begin, middle, and end. -One strong paragraph -5-8 sentences minimum

3. Expressed a need to see/have excellent, proficient and struggling writing samples
4. Leslie shared Lucy Calkins set
5. Need a field trip out of our pond in a similar demographic area
 - what are other districts using?
 - do we have money to do this?
 - don’t want to piecemeal together?
 - do we have money for resources?
 - do we have district support and a plan for implementation?