Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Kathy Wright-Chapman, ECS Region 11, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Monday, Oct. 14, 2013 Time: 1:30- 2 p.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Documentation is posted through February, 2013, as are products from later work. Notes are need from later meetings that were announced for March 20 and April 20.

Topics discussed:

1. Kathy was preparing for a meeting to take place on October 25 with Hill College and the assistant superintendents in a coop that includes Burleson, Cleburne, Joshua, Alvarado, Venus, Godley, Grandview, Keene, and Rio Vista ISDs. Hill College is interested in technical writing discussion that include CTE teachers from interested districts.
2. Mary suggested adding a 4-year college, and we developed a procedure for deciding which was the best in terms of receiving students from this pipeline. Using our plan, Kathy later selected Tarleton State University.
3. Kathy said this reformed VAT should be viewed as a continuation of last year’s ELA work with Hill College expanded to include more partners. The chemistry VAT is not being continued. The primary science leader from Fort Worth ISD moved, and TCC faculty did not attend in spring, 2013.
4. Susan Patterson (DTE) and Elita Driskill (Secondary ELA) from ESC 11 are leading the VAT, expected to meet for 3 sessions. Higher education partners will bring their profiles to the first meeting as a way of sharing data, including data about costs. Kathy related this to a meeting she attended in Bridgeport that includes a co-op of school districts, representatives of Weatherford College and NCTC and of the TRIO programs from UNT. Weatherford was interested in offering students remedial courses.
5. Asked about a statewide meeting, Kathy said she would attend if local. She thinks it’s not possible to find a time when all can come and wants to avoid evening meetings if possible. Her concerns are funds for travel and needing a clear purpose.
6. We talked about continued interest in how HB5 relates to these AVATAR discussions.

Follow up

Kathy, are you able to provide a list yet of the VAT members?

Also, are there records of spring meetings that you can send?