

*Center of Excellence*  
**Curriculum Development Project Work Session**  
**Social Studies**

Minutes  
*Pee Dee Education Center*  
*January 26, 2006*  
*8:30 – 4:00 p.m.*

**Social Studies Members Present:**

Toni Brant  
Susan Bruton  
Sharon Byram  
Emily Creel  
Mary Gettys  
Al Grantham  
Kim James  
Cathy Johnson  
Stacie Kirby  
Bridget Porter  
Debbie Purvis  
Jean Shaw  
Kim Wilson

**Guests**

Lorin Anderson  
Paula Gregg

**COE Staff**

Tammy Pawloski      Brenda Hill  
Markey Bee

**I. Introduction & Taking Stock at the Half-Way Point**

Dr. Lorin Anderson, facilitator, welcomed the Social Studies Curriculum Project members to the midpoint work day session. He began the meeting by listing both positive and negative comments he has received from group members regarding the work completed on units to date.

**Positives:**

- 1) Quality of units – Group members feel good about the work completed on the units.
- 2) Benefits for peers and colleagues – Group members want to share completed units with other teachers in all of the districts.

**Negatives:**

- 1) Time pressure (too much to do in too little time; difficult to write units and be a teacher at the same time)
- 2) Time delay between unit submission. Feedback from FMU reviewers makes it difficult to complete the necessary revisions.

3) Long-term personal benefits -  
Group members feel they are personally benefiting from what they are learning in the process of developing the units.

3) Problem of attachments (size of files, difficulty of transmission via email)

Dr. Anderson then opened the discussion for feedback from the group for additional comments on their experience writing the units. A few of the comments from the group were...

**Positives:**

- 1) When writing the curriculum, receive requests to send copies of all the work done by units
- 2) One group has grown so close that they feel they can go to one another with any teaching problem
- 3) Trying to find same curriculum in case a child moves to a different school district

**Negatives:**

- 1) There is a life outside of teaching
- 2) Difficulty with textbooks, not knowing what will be used next year -can't make this information text specific (standards)
- 3) Textbooks don't necessarily keep in line with standards. (In writing units, not everyone uses the same texts)

**II. Midway Progress Chart**

Dr. Anderson then distributed a handout outlining progress of each grade level team. The chart identified each team, the total number of units submitted to date and the total number of units to be completed at the end of the year.

**III. Grade Level Team Work**

Groups then began working in small groups for remainder of the day.

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. Dr. Anderson reminded the teams of unit due dates and distributed the Curriculum Feedback Form. He reminded the group that feedback on this project was vital to the project. He asked the group members to complete one form for each unit taught.