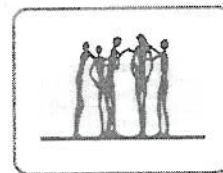




French and International Languages



Calgary Board of Education

CHINESE LANGUAGE CONSORTIUM MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2010

Videoconference Meeting: Manning Centre, Calgary & Woodcroft School, Edmonton
Chair: Elaine Schmidt (CBE)

Attendees:

Edmonton: Wei Wong/John Yee, ECBEA; Wei Li, CIE; Norman Sieweke/Janice Aubry, EPSB/IISLE; Xinxin Fang, Chinese Language Advisor; Joe Wu, U of A; Christina Bexte, Alberta Ed

Calgary: Wei Cai, U of C; Theresa Trapnell, CSSD; Elaine Schmidt, CBE
CBE parent guests: Mai Luu/Frank Wen

1. Approval of amended November 5, 2009 minutes and April 28, 2010 Agenda
-Moved by Janice Aubry, seconded by Wei Wong

2. Consortium Membership and Meeting Process

Background: Members are Alberta registered societies, businesses or institutional members (school boards, post-secondary and ATA), with an interest in promoting Chinese Language Education (not individuals or commercial interests). The process for new membership involves submitting a letter of request, attending a meeting to understand the work of the Consortium, followed by a motion and a vote by the membership. Language Advisor is a non-voting members. Chairing the Consortium is a voluntary one year duty to be rotated between members.

Actions:

1. The Consortium chairperson will contact current members who have not attended by letter to confirm membership and inform them of the opportunity to participate by videoconference. We can create a VC sites listing to facilitate participation.
2. Joe Wu, Norman Sieweke, Janice Aubry and Elaine Schmidt will collect historic documents and minutes to have posted on a website that will be available to all members. This website will be housed and updated by the Confucius Institute Edmonton (CIE) at Woodcroft where the original paper documents such as the MOU will also be housed.
3. Discussion regarding the videoconference meeting time and process resulted in agreement that all members will submit digital information sharing updates prior to videoconference meetings so the agenda time will be reserved for discussion of resulting issues.

3. 2010-11 Consortium Chair and Meeting Dates

The CIE (Stuart Wachowicz and Dr. Wei Li) will chair in 2010-11.

Meeting dates: Fall – Tuesday, October 5, 9-noon; and Spring – Tuesday, May 3, 9-noon

4-9. Updates – see attached digital updates (CIE, ECBEA, Alberta Ed, Chinese Language Advisor, IISLE, U of A course list and notes re trends)

Discussion re CIE updates:

-library listing is available on-line to all teachers and public but on-line loan process is not yet available; annual membership cost is \$15 for public and \$10 for students
-Thank you from CBE to CIE for organizing and supporting a school library resource selection trip to China in March 2010 and including a CBE teacher; as well a thank you to Shandong Ministry and Hanban for providing the shipping of these resources to Alberta

- Questions from Elaine (CBE):

Could some PD and Canada/China lecture series opportunities also be available by videoconference so that more teachers can participate? Wei Li (CIE) said this would be considered.

Would it be possible to offer workshops in Calgary as well as Edmonton when the Beijing Opera Society performances take place in both cities in September? Elaine should contact Dr. Li to discuss further.

Further info updates from CIE:

-Elementary summer camps will be held in Edmonton this summer

-25 places will be available for summer camps in China; the application process will begin soon

-info for Hanban teacher scholarships to Laocheng University in Shandong is not yet available (22 last year); the brochure will also be sent to Calgary boards (2 courses available: Chinese Art and Chinese Language & Culture)

Discussion re ECBEA updates:

-ECBEA will receive a certificate of recognition on May 13 for the RISE Award nomination – Congratulations!

-corporate support is needed to sponsor the 2nd round of orphans visiting for 2 weeks in August

-school jurisdictions in Coquitlam BC have sought mentorship support and will be starting a few Mandarin Bilingual programs at the Kindergarten level this year

Discussion re U of A course list for Chinese Bilingual graduates and notes re trends in Chinese Language education in American schools:

-Wei Li says that worldwide availability of Chinese L2 teachers is an issue and Hanban wants a teacher training base in Canada to facilitate knowledge of North American pedagogy and context

-Joe Wu and Stuart Wachowicz have drafted a proposal for a fall 2011 or 2012 conference to engage leaders in government, industry and education to discuss the promotion of language learning in Canada; this concept is endorsed by Hanban and the 4 Canadian Confucius Institutes (NB, Que., McMaster, Edmonton); this proposal is in the very initial stages

U of C Updates (digital version not available):

-Chinese study abroad program which runs every 2 years will take place May 6 – June 5

-U of C professors have published a textbook and CD for students at the 200 & 300 levels

-this year's annual speech competition (7th) will follow a new format with local judges
-2010 Chinese Proficiency Test dates: HSK levels 1, 2 & 3 – Sunday, October 17, and
YCT levels 1-4 – Saturday, October 30

10. Performance Task Follow-up (Norman Sieweke)

-Simplified conversions for the grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 Reading Performance Tasks are on the last page of the task on the CD.
-Correction: the grade 2 Reading Task (with the pig) should be 'Rakiki likes to Paint'
-The teacher should insert the text with pictures so that students have access to the visual support.

11. Other

-Wei Li requests that we include a regular meeting agenda item 'How to promote Chinese Language Learning'.

12. Adjournment – moved by Norman Sieweke, seconded by Theresa Trapnell