

# InTech Trust Lands Community Council Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2008

## Present:

Alice Carlisle, Patria Julnes, Eleanor Wellings, JaDean Frehner, Dan Coffin, and Marilynn Liddle

## Excused:

Kathy Curtis and John Hernandez

- I. Introduction
- II. Watched video "Using the Trust"
- III. Read through existing plan from 4-27-2007
- IV. Discussion:

Dan Coffin explained that the goal to improve student writing was made after 11 students failed the initial writing portion of the UBSCT test. After the test this year we only have three students who failed, but writing is still the weakest area in testing for our students.

Patria Julnes asked if there was flexibility in reallocating the budget to maybe use for salaries for after school tutors or a program that would increase everyone's writing skills not just the few students who did not pass the test.

Dan Coffin explained about the program TeenBiz which has differentiated reading and writing assignments with a range that challenges all abilities with the same content. This allows for a shared classroom discussion. The program reassesses students and provides reports. It allows closed emails for parents, an informal reading and writing environment for students, demonstration of mastery, and the development of critical cognitive skills by writing answers to open ended questions. It also provides a chance for students to give their opinions. This program can be used once or twice each week and has documented success resulting in serious gains for struggling population. Considered buying subscriptions for the struggling students, maybe \$80/year/student.

Alice called and left a message with her Trust Lands contact about our flexibility in spending last year's allocation. She will let us know what she hears back.

Ms. Liddle asked if some of the 'software' money could go to computers/hardware.

Mr. Coffin will continue attempting to contact TeenBiz about the cost of their software.

Alice will contact Dr. Zsiray about his intentions for the money when he submitted this budget.

Mrs. Liddle will also look into specifics about textbooks she is interested in obtaining. She doesn't yet have any textbooks to use. She also feels a need to target those whose writing mechanics are far below grade level. It was asked how many students this would be and Mr. Coffin and Mrs. Liddle felt currently less than half a dozen.

There was a group discussion about whether we need to meet again soon or if we can take care of current business through emails. It was decided that emails should suffice because the budget has already been submitted. Alice will contact committee members about a meeting if she learns that another one is necessary.