

LABOR MANAGEMENT PARTNERS' BREAKFAST MEETING

TEMPLATE: SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE THIS MEETING

Shanker Institute Staff (in front materials)

There are two sessions where this template may be useful, the breakfast discussion on April 21 and the small group discussions in the early afternoon. Or, you follow your own compass. The background, action advisories and action checklist alert in this guide alert you to the various pots of money you may find useful and offer some key questions to help shape your conversations should you need them.

INNOVATION, MOTHERHOOD, AND APPLE PIE

Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brown Center Letters on Education, Brookings Institution, March 2009.

Russ Whitehurst writes as if he suddenly has been freed from the strictures of the Bush administration education line, as he has been. While not everything he did as Bush's head of the Institute for Educational Sciences under Bush was as balanced, he uses this opportunity to argue that we know a lot about how to improve the traditional public school model and we should use it. He also questions the continued focus on whole-scale or "paradigm-shifting" reforms, such as charter schools, which rarely live up to expectations. Instead, he argues, it is the small, routine, continuous, unsexy "process innovations" that tend to result in significant, lasting improvements. Noting that the "legislative language for the Innovation Fund pushes the Department to identify best practices based on flimsy evidence," Whitehurst cautions the new Department of Education to address selection bias in making awards. He is also adamant that evaluation of funded reforms be done carefully.

IDEAS FOR PREK-12 AFT AFFILIATES ON USING STIMULUS FUNDS WISELY

American Federation of Teachers, March 2009

This briefing paper offers a number of resources and ideas for reform that are consistent with the agenda we have been working on.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION RECOVERY CLEARINGHOUSE

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, www.nwrel.org/nwarra/other.ph

This is an excellent listing of resource materials on ARRA.

STATE STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM: BRIDGING THE GAP

HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TRAJECTORIES:

CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN WITH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Neelam Kher, William Schmidt, Richard Houang, and Zhiwen Zou, April 2007

This study is part of a comprehensive (K-12) mathematics and science reform initiative focusing on high school mathematics curriculum. Students' opportunities to learn mathematics content in two geographically diverse school districts were studied to determine if these are linked with student performance in mathematics. All high school students and their mathematics teachers in both districts provided data for this study. Preliminary findings suggest that different curriculum content trajectories offer very different opportunities to learn within and between school districts, and that these differing opportunities to learn content are linked to levels of student performance in mathematics.

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR CHILDREN AND TEACHERS

Albert Shanker Institute, 2009 (IN POCKET)

Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently indicated that the quality of preschool education would be considered in the competition for the Race to the Top funds. This recent report from the Albert Shanker Institute discusses how the research into how young children learn can help to improve the quality of preschool programs.

TIMSS RESULTS PLACE MASSACHUSETTS AMONG WORLD LEADERS IN MATH AND SCIENCE

Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, December 09, 2008

BRIGHT SIGN FOR TECH IN MASS.: SCIENCE, MATH PUPILS NEAR TOP INTERNATIONALLY

James Vaznis, *The Boston Globe*, December 10, 2008

Massachusetts students significantly outperformed their peers nationwide on the 2007 TIMSS, a prestigious math and science exam, putting the state on an elite international tier. In many cases, the state's impressive showing put Massachusetts in the same league with Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore—academic heavyweights that have long made US policy-makers fearful of losing an economic competitive edge. The results mirror the state's strong showing on national standardized tests in math and science.

MSU SCHOLARS HELP MINNESOTA BECOME GLOBAL LEADER IN MATH

Michigan State University, December 9, 2008

STANDARDS HELP MINNESOTA VIE WITH TOP NATIONS

Sean Cavanagh, *Education Week*, January 21, 2009

One of only two U.S. states to participate in the 2007 TIMSS assessment, Minnesota was found to be scoring at or near the level of many of the highest-performing countries on that exam, and its scores in some categories have jumped significantly since it first took part in 1995. Officials credit the setting and refinement of academic standards (a process that was helped by Michigan State University scholars)—as well as efforts to translate them for teachers—as prime factors behind the progress.