

Social Studies TETN Notes
February 11, 2009

(These are not official minutes of this meeting, only notes about the meeting. They were reviewed by Rosemary Morrow, Director of Social Studies at TEA.)

The TETN was led by Rosemary Morrow, Director. Julie Brelsford, Assistant Director of Social Studies, was also present.

Agenda

Preservation Texas, governor's mansion restoration
TEA Update
Other announcements

Preservation Texas: Liz Giesie

<http://governor.state.tx.us/about/mansion/education/>

Liz Giesie spoke about the governor's mansion restoration fund and students' involvement.

- The governor's mansion suffered arson last summer.
- There is a curriculum being created to restore the mansion.
- The mansion DVD based on old photographs will be on the website; it can be reproduced, and will be online in March.
- There is a first ladies video with Anita Perry and the Texas preservation restoration fund. Liz showed part of the video to the audience.
- Curriculum will be available on governor's mansion site and TEA for middle school and high school.
 - Question-Was the mansion insured? No, the state decides each year and decided not to fund the insurance for the mansion.
 - Question-How long will it take to restore? After funds are allocated, it will take two to three years.
- Dawnita Nix-Austin ISD talked about the middle school curriculum.
 - There are two parts of the 7th grade lesson:
 - Two articles and editorials from *The Statesman* are used in this lesson.
 - Students read one or both articles then use various instructional strategies to reflect on their reading.
 - Using the OPTIC Visual Analysis strategy, students compare and think about the different structures of heads of state. The activity includes:
 - Past and previous residences
 - Venn diagram
 - Sally Hunter, a 4th grade teacher from Austin, had the idea to create this project:
 - PowerPoint: This House is Your House, using primary source materials, including these four pieces to the lesson:
 - What do we value?
 - Who do we know?
 - Who can we become?
 - How can we help?
 - Several different primary sources are included in the curriculum.
 - www.TexasGovernorsMansion.org
 - You can copy the DVD from the website.
 - Copyright is cleared for educators to use with students.
 - The funding for this project comes from private sources.

TEA update

The social studies TETNs usually follow the State Board of Education (SBOE) meetings; the board met in late January. Information from this meeting was discussed.

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- Dr. McLeroy is the chair, Mr. Allen is the vice chair, Mrs. Leo is the secretary. Mrs. Cargill chairs the Committee on Instruction.
- Science TEKS Revisions
 - The revised science TEKS went before the SBOE for first reading.
 - First reading document for science will be posted for 30 days for public comment.
- Social Studies TEKS Revisions
 - The board hopes to post informal documents for social studies in the fall.
 - The TEKS revision committees met
 - Grades K-8 met January 29-31
 - High school committees met February 5-7.
 - Teams of five to seven people worked on the first draft.
 - There are no products at this point.
 - The committees will meet again in April.
- End of Course tests (EOC)
 - The World History focus group is meeting offsite; five educators will provide feedback to the assessment division.
 - In late spring or early summer, advisory groups of 20 people will give feedback on sample items.
 - The U.S. history EOC is voluntary.
 - Exit level TAKS and grade 10 will still be given until EOCs become required.
 - The World Geography EOC will be field tested in May. Districts can volunteer to participate in the field test; check with the testing coordinator in you district. Paper and computer test formats will be available.
- Textbook adoption
 - The timeline for English Language Arts (ELA) is in the works.
 - Proclamation 2010 and 2011 for ELAR were revisited.
- Other items of interest
 - There will probably not be a call for a 5th grade social studies assessment, during this legislative session.
 - A report was posted concerning a survey that the TEA commissioner conducted with district superintendents state-wide. It was discovered that only 9% of districts have the capability to conduct an online assessment for TAKS or EOC.
- The next state board meeting will be held March 27-29, which is the same time that TSSSA will meet in Austin.

Other Announcements

- February is African American heritage month.
- Texas history and women's history month is in March. If you want to share resources, send them to Rosemary and she will send them out on the listserv.
- Some changes will be made to the social studies section of the TEA website, such as the biographies. Rosemary can use our help with links that should be disconnected or updated. Any input will be helpful.
- Amy and Nichole from the assessment division were in the audience.
- Region 13 said there would be a ESC consultants' meeting the Wednesday before TSSSA meets in March. The information will be sent out this week.
- A person from Region 13 said that she contacted her SBOE member concerning of the lack of representatives on the TEKS review committees. She was told that it was an oversight and that the representative is working to rectify it with TEA.

The meeting ended with Rosemary thanking the guests for sharing information. Our next meeting will be held in early April.