

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

Meeting Date: August 26, 2013

**AGENDA
ITEM No. 13-08-(2)-13**

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: UNC Chapel Hill – New Hope Elementary Student Intern Cohort Agreement

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Marcie Holland **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENT: 1. Memorandum of Agreement between UNC Chapel Hill School of Education, Elementary Education Program, and Orange County Schools/New Hope Elementary School

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is to provide the Board of Education an opportunity to hear about and discuss a student intern cohort program being offered to Orange County Schools, specifically New Hope Elementary School, through UNC Chapel Hill's School of Education's Elementary Education Program.

BACKGROUND: Orange County Schools works collaboratively with the colleges/universities across the state to place teachers-in-training in our schools for their student teaching experiences. Each year, we place between 50 and 100 student interns throughout the district. A great number of these are from the colleges/universities located closest to us, including UNC Chapel Hill.

Through the work of partnerships with UNC Chapel Hill apart from student intern placement, a proposal was presented to create a cohort of student interns, partnered with veteran teachers at New Hope Elementary, which would focus on deepening knowledge and instructional practice based on the major shifts in the Common Core curriculum, specifically in the areas of literacy and mathematics.

In addition to the student internship component, additional activities will take place that benefit the student interns, cooperating teachers, and other staff at New Hope Elementary, which include:

1. Book study;
2. Focused professional development;
3. Collaborative opportunities for the student interns and cooperating teachers, as well as supervisors and school administration; and
4. Focused literacy professional development for school faculty.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the UNC CH New Hope Elementary Student Intern Cohort Agreement.

Memorandum of Agreement

This document serves as an agreement between University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education Elementary Education Program and Orange County Schools/New Hope Elementary School concerning the placement and plans for joint work involving a maximum of seven student teachers and cooperating teachers at New Hope Elementary for the 2013-2014 school year.

Vision: To develop a support network of collaborative learners including student teachers, veteran teachers, and university personnel in order to deepen content knowledge and instructional practice by analyzing some of the major shifts in Common Core design both in literacy and mathematics in primarily upper elementary grades.

UNC-Chapel Hill Student Teacher Placements

1. While not finalized, placements for seven student teachers will be (one) in second grade, (two) in third grade, (three) in fourth grade, and (one) in 5th grade. Teacher assignments to grade levels are still in process, but the teachers will be: Katherine Ballard, Jessica Honeycutt, Ann Leck, Jessica Norris, Tracie Rettig, Amy White, and Stephanie Wieland.
2. UNC-Chapel Hill SOE Elementary Education Program will identify and recommend the assignment of the seven student teachers by end of May and provide this information to Principal Jeffrey Rachlin. Final arrangements (i.e., student teacher-cooperating teacher pairings) will be made by August 15, 2013.
3. Student teachers and cooperating teachers will be responsible for carrying out expectations for certification as detailed from the UNC-Chapel Hill SOE Elementary Education Practicum Manual. Added to this work will be ongoing discussions among CTs and/or STs about working to support/be supported in the context of developing as a teacher.

Tasks to be completed that go beyond the standard student and cooperating teacher placement requirements:

1. Student teachers will participate in a book study along with cooperating teachers using *Strategies That Work 2nd Edition* during the fall and *The Common Core Lesson Book* during the spring (optional). The book studies and discussions will be lead by two of New Hope's cooperating teachers (Jessica Honeycutt and Stephanie Wieland). The book studies will also be open to other teachers at the school who are interested in developing vertical understanding of reading strategies to use in a reading workshop model followed by a method of organizing those concepts within the framework of Common Core practice.
2. Focused professional development for student and cooperating teachers along the development of fractions vertically between 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will be provided by the UNC coordinator (Friel) and the OCS coordinator (Phelps). This work will support the underlying development of fraction concepts grades 3-5, including multiplying fractions and understanding dividing fractions. There is also a possibility of allowing other teachers within the school to join in on these discussions as well to develop grade level consensus.
3. Provisions will be made to provide opportunities for the cohort of student and cooperating teachers, supervisors, and school administration to meet to discuss common school practices,

