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VI. Staff Development

To date, the South Shore African Village Collaborative has held several combined community partners and network school meetings. Aside from other issues, Staff Development has been discussed. A joint school staff development day has been tentatively scheduled for August 30, to be held at South Shore Community Academy, for the purpose of addressing the development of the Fifth Grade Community Service Curriculum and the co-related components of African Centered Learning; as well as; African and Caribbean international computer partnership exchanges. A sub committee has been formed that is currently attempting to secure Dr. Asa Hilliard, author of the first complete African centered curriculum (entitled the Portland Model) as the keynote speaker.

Lastly, CIESS's three day teachers conference, held in March of this year, sponsored a presentation on the state of implemented African Centered Curricula. This was delivered by Dr. Jacob Carothers, professor at Inner Cities Studies Institute. As a consciousness raising session, it received rave reviews and has prepared the way for the curriculum readiness survey, which is expected to be administered during the fall.

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Working Draft
Grade 5 Curriculum Resource Unit SSAVC
Community Service
Proposed Title-Leadership in the Community (Village): Elders and Youth
Working Together
Submitted by: Yvonne R. Jones

Rationale

A basic premise of the ancient African community was that, "No one is born wise." Therefore, it was the responsibility of the wise elders to transmit knowledge to the youth. Thus, intergenerational continuity was maintained as elders informed, explained, imparted, and showed by example how one ought to behave to be successful in life. *The Instruction of Ptah Hotep*, a text from ancient Egypt clearly demonstrates this process or pedagogy. The sage, Ptah Hotep, instructs the youth in *Medew Nefer, Good Speech*. Good Speech is the ancient Egyptian mode of instruction, but it is also the art of thinking clearly, speaking articulately, and acting in a manner that is harmonious with others. Good Speech represents ethically and morally correct speech and behavior. Like Ptah Hotep, all leaders in ancient Egypt were expected to exhibit this trait.

Today, given the magnitude of the social problems that confront many African American communities, the tradition of wise instruction is as necessary as it was five thousand years ago in the Nile Valley. Therefore, a unit on community service with an emphasis on leadership and the role of elders in the development of our youth is appropriate. The elders need to speak so all can benefit from their wisdom. Our children need to hear what their parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and other elders have to say. Our children need to know the beliefs, values, and practices that have sustained their elders. Our children need to emulate the ways of the wise elders. Our children need to understand the historical context of our struggles for liberation from those forces that seek to destroy us. Our children need to understand the positive outcomes of giving of self and serving others. Our children need to realize that work is necessary to maintain a healthy and viable community.

By offering a practical community service component to this unit, our children will be given the opportunity to operationalize the ideas they have learned about leadership. Serving others can provide a positive experience for our youth by enhancing their understanding of the world of work, instilling within them pride in their own accomplishments and self-worth, and increasing awareness of the need of others.

After participating in this unit on community service, students should develop a greater respect for self, family and community; have a greater sense of social responsibility and self worth; and exhibit leadership traits that are vital to the healthy survival of our community. Thus, intergenerational continuity will be maintained for posterity. (See M. Angelou's, *Black Family Pledge*)

The Unit

Proposed Title- Leadership in the Community: Elders and Youth Working Together