

Pacific Union Conference K-12 Curriculum Committee

Following almost two years of planning, the Pacific Union Conference Curriculum Committees embarked on a new agenda format that focuses on several key factors:

1. A combined K-12 topic for discussion
2. A moving toward a “working” or “hand-on” committee concept
3. An opportunity to study a topic’s theory
4. To learn from a practitioner of the topic
5. An opportunity to discuss the topic in groups as it relates to grades K-8 and 9-12
6. And, the opportunity to still deal with ancillary agenda items particular to grades K-8 and 9-12

On February 27, 2017, the Pacific Union Conference put this new format into place with the topic of discussion being Project-Based Learning (PBL). Tom Lee, chair of the Pacific Union College Education Department, provided the curriculum committee with a well-developed presentation on the background and theory regarding PBL. Mr. Lee’s presentation was enhanced by his own experience as a practitioner utilizing PBL techniques.

Following the background presentation, David Vixie, teacher at Paradise Adventist Academy, provided the committee with insights into his ongoing and extensive use of PBL techniques as a practitioner. Mr. Vixie brought numerous visual aides and showed several videos as examples of his PBL teaching methods. At the conclusion of his presentation, he provided a graphic example of how using PBL has had a unique spiritual impact on his students.

The curriculum committee then separated into elementary and secondary groups and spent time discussing how the Project-Based Learning concepts could be applied to their grade levels. Additionally, time was spent in these breakout groups with a few agenda items on other topics specific to each.

The general sessions of the curriculum committee were video recorded so that they could be made available to anyone interested. Additionally, some of the presentation items have been posted to the Pacific Union Conference Office of Education website - <https://paucedu.adventistfaith.org/k12-curriculum-committee> and additional items will be posted as they become available.