Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Christine Holecek, ECS Region 12, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2013 Time: 3:30 – 4 p.m.

**Status of documentation:**

1. Documentation has been received through March, 2013. Notes are needed from May 17 and any subsequent meetings.

**Topics discussed:**

1. Chris summarized AVATAR update from March 28 Heart of Texas P-20 Regional Council meeting. At that point VAT had created a rubric for use in grading essays.
2. Concern has been raised that teachers who assign essays in multiple content areas may grade more on completion than content or mastery of writing, so the rubric developed is coming to be viewed as for use across the curriculum. The rubric will be shared on the P-20 Council website, and funds were requested to make this possible.
3. The VAT will meet on May 17 from 8 to noon to continue its work, with the Council to meet afterward for a panel presentation and celebration.
4. Region 12 plans to continue its ELAR VAT in 2013-14 and to add a math VAT. Chris recommends that AVATAR provide training for teams, maybe with a video component. Additional team members may be added. Local funds will have been spent after recruitment of next year’s teams.
5. Chris wanted to know about the format for the final financial report.
6. The Connect 3 Conference to be held June 11-12 will feature best practice in CTE. Planned activities are exciting and hands-on for teachers. A goal is to change school perceptions of CTE. The rubric will be presented at the conference.
7. McLennan College is 100% on board!
8. A vertical alignment summit is planned for the coming school year.

**Follow-up needed:**

 Chris, please send notes from meetings that take place after this call.

 Mary wanted to discuss with Chris strategic planning process used by the HOT Council.