

Three years ago, Dr. Torres wanted to bring the AVID program to school district u-46. In the middle and high school buildings, teachers were asked to be a part of the AVID site team committee and would earn a 1000.00 stipend. Volunteers were sent to a summer training for four days (at mostly our own expense) and were expected to return to their buildings and begin, from scratch, an AVID program. Volunteers were also asked to travel to Champaign-Urbana to see an AVID program in action, but were told the district would not provide substitutes. If we wanted to go, we had to take a personal day from our own bank of saved days. Five site team members used their own days to help the district build a program it wanted.

At our first site team meeting, we were told that the stipend was no longer going to be given, but we were free to walk away from the committee if we so chose. No one at Kenyon Woods left the site team that day and we have been working diligently ever since. Our committee members have spent countless hours before, during and after school to have the best AVID program in the district. We host 5 parent nights a year which are informative for incoming parents and students and also celebrate the successes in our program. These parent nights require hours of planning as well as the 2 hours each night for the programs themselves. We have travelled to our feeder schools to promote our program, with the help of the Beacon students, we created an informative video highlighting AVID, we conduct the mandatory AVID interviews for ALL potential AVID students. Our site team has performed so well, in fact, that we are being asked to donate more of our time and efforts to become an AVID National Demonstration School, one of the few that will be in the area.

Every person on an AVID site team has willingly given, with no compensation, their time hard work and money because we believe in the program and we care about students. The AVID program works in U-46 because WE work for U-46. How sad it would be for such an exceptional program to be lost in U-46 because the district refuses to financially support this successful program.