

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

August 11, 2008
University of Maine

Attending: Mary Giard, Debbie Bird, Donna Oliver, Liz Huggins, Joanie Speyer, Pam Kimball, Owen Mauris, Sandra Cooksen, Beth Clifford, and Judy Pusey

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

RTI- The feedback from the Summer RTI Institute was very positive from high school participants with respect to both the literacy and behavioral components and they were strong from the elementary participants as well. There was recognition that individuals are at different levels with respect to literacy backgrounds. Owen will be speaking with Lee Goss to see if she is willing to continue to provide professional development through PREP in the areas of literacy and mathematics. Owen asked the group about having a district representative attend a planning session in September to offer guidance. There will be 2 dates for additional behavior training and 2 dates for additional literacy work. (Each group, K-5 and 6-12 will have their own sessions.) After Wednesday, Owen will know how much, if any, additional fees will be charged to each district within PREP for these sessions. Districts that are not part of PREP will be assessed a fee. The plan is to offer another 3-day Summer Institute in 2009 which may offer varied options to address differing needs among districts and individuals.

A question was raised about the behavior screening tool that was shared at the Institute in June. Some concerns have been voiced about the perceived subjectivity of the assessment. Teachers are anticipating some potentially negative reactions from parents who may feel that their child(ren) are being singled out. Joanie wondered if there is longitudinal data about the responses to the tools use as well as questioning whether there are any recent legal opinions from court cases in Maine where this tool is in use. Owen will raise these issues with Jim Artesian so he can address them in some fashion with Institute participants.

In preparation for the planning meeting around the RTI work, Owen asks that participants send him questions regarding the RTI endeavor and moving forward. (Owen will prompt individuals for these once the meeting dates are set.)

Virtual High Schools – Old Town, Orono, and MSAD #22 will be utilizing on-line programming this year. A major focus for this initiative will be gifted and talented programming. A teacher from Hampden will be coordinating the program, and the “slots” will be shared among the 3 systems. **(Owen will talk with Gail Garthwaite regarding a follow-up meeting with the superintendents.)** Owen will convene a meeting in October so the VHS group can evaluate the program's implementation.

2009 PREP Professional Development Initiatives- Owen reviewed the extensive listing of PREP initiatives for the coming school year. After some discussion of the offerings, dates, locations, etc., Owen will make some revisions and additions to the list and provide us with an updated copy. (Because of limited funds this year, districts are encouraged to purchase Still Learning to Read: Teaching Students in Grades 3-6 and Learning By Doing for participating individuals.)

Writing Project- Some questions were raised around the writing project. The responses are as follows:

- If the participant signs up for 3 graduate credits, the current cost will be \$1,179 beyond the \$1,000 for participating in the program.
- The plan will be to offer 3 graduate credits for each year of participation. (A different name and number will be used for each “course.”)
- For those who do not wish to work toward graduate credit, PREP will award CEU certificates based on a participants attendance.

State Updates- Sandra disseminated information about Administrative Letters 2 and 3 and Informational Letters 2, 8, 9, and 10. She also shared an announcement about a session that the State is offering on August 27th at the Augusta Civic Center with Dr. Willard Daggett and Maria LaFort called, “Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships for All Students: A Showcase of Best Practices.” Registration forms can be found on-line.

MCLA Update – Beth mentioned that a recent e-mail had been sent to individuals on the membership and mailing lists that contained attachments for 2009 membership forms and registration forms for the October 14 and 15th conference in Freeport. (Bob Marzano will be presenting on the 15th) By-law changes were also mentioned in the e-mail. Several curriculum coordinators remarked that they did not get the e-mail. Beth will forward the e-mail and contact Gloria Jenkins, secretary, to inform her of the concern.

With Tad Johnson leaving the DOE to return to the classroom, MaineCLA needs a person to take Tad’s place as a liaison for the group. MaineCLA is in conversation with the DOE about a replacement.

(Not noted at the meeting- SORRY!!! Bob Jenkins, President and Tom Keller, Past President, attended the “Stakeholders Meeting” regarding high school graduation. MaineCLA is not “at the table,” but Bob and Tom went as representatives to have a presence there. [You may remember that Sue Gendron said during our spring conference at Freeport that people were welcome to “attend” these meetings.] There will be 4 additional meetings before the end of September with the intent to have final proposed regulations go to public hearing before the end of October. There is concern about the process and the extent to which this group will be making broad recommendations about the educational system beyond the high school program.)

There will be an “at-large” position open on the MaineCLA Board in 2009. Individuals should consider running to have another voice from PREP. (Clarification on “at-large” Board positions- any member can express interest in being on the Board- there would be a 30-day window to express interest as is stated in the By-laws, and then the Board members would elect the “at-large” member from the pool of candidates.)

Next Steps with High School Principals- This item was tabled as there are too many items up in the air with respect to “Pathways,” syllabi reviews, graduation requirements, etc.

Mission Statement- Joanie shared a DRAFT of our mission statement. The group discussed proposed changes, agreed upon the wording, and Joanie will send out the revised language. GREAT job done!!!!

Planning the 2008-2009 work with K-5 PLC's– Beth shared that Ellen Holmes has been contacted and agreed to develop a survey to disseminate to participants through curriculum coordinators. The dates for Ellen to meet with K-5 people, hopefully at the UTC, are November 18th (This date is correct!), January 27th with February 3rd as a snow date, and April 14th.

Meeting dates for this year-

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

January 26th

February 23rd

March 16th

April 13th

May 18th

2. New Business

Roles-

- Facilitator- There was a unanimous request for Ellen to serve as facilitator for the 2008-09 school year!
- Recorder- With the hope that Ellen would be willing to facilitate, Beth volunteered to be recorder. (Sandra volunteered to cover the September meeting as Beth has a conflict.)
- DOE website monitor- Donna
- MCLA rep.- Beth
- Administrative Council of Teacher Prep- OPEN
- High School Principals' Group- Judy
- Book Facilitator- open until the September meeting

Book Study- People are asked to consider what/how we might proceed in selecting a book or other materials (ie. articles, chapters from books, etc.) for study, and we need to consider who might facilitate or rotate facilitation. One book that was mentioned was Reframing Teacher Leadership to Improve Your School by Douglas Reeves. For more information, check it out on-line.

Shared Resources- Debbie shared her interest in having PREP curriculum coordinators make a list of available resources that might be borrowed by other systems for professional development. Debbie will send out a format electronically for people to record their materials and to return the list to her.

Goals- After some discussion, the group agreed to use the mission statement as a framework for our goals and to place specific actions under each area. Tentatively-

Creating and supporting professional learning communities, the portal to professional development- All professional development activities offered by PREP
Nurturing leadership that enhances teaching and learning- Virtual High School initiative

Assisting our communities in understanding the impact of State and federal laws and regulations on teaching and learning- working with principals on the emerging graduation requirements

Collaborating to attaining our mission- ? Curriculum coordinators' professional development activities and regular meetings

3. Next meeting at 10:00 on September 15th at Reed's Brook School (lunch will be ordered out)

Meeting agenda:

- All "Old Business" items except meeting dates and mission statement
- Selection of book/materials and determining who will facilitate (one or more individuals) for our professional development
- Continue efforts to develop common resources- Debbie

Also:

- Pam asked for MAT proposals
- Owen will check with Dr. Segee to find out the status of NSFG and PREP participants' roles
- Public service announcements on literacy development will move forward this year