

# PREP Penobscot River Educational Partnership

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## Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

December 14, 2009

Reeds Brooke Middle School

Attending: Debbie Bird, Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Owen Maurais, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, Maureen Montgomery, Cathy Menard, Judy Pusey, Donna Oliver, Pam Kimball and Ellen Almquist

### 1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen shared that there have been a number of staff development offerings in December. The feedback is being collated by Phyllis and will be shared at a future meeting. Owen mentioned the possibility of having an Everyday Math representative provide staff development to PREP schools if there is interest. When Owen called the company, he was told that there would need to be some objectives established before discussing possibilities. The sense is that teachers would definitely benefit from training. There was interest expressed in differentiation of instruction, securing goals, and addressing pacing issues. The sense is that the schools would generally have similar questions so it would make sense to bring staff from all schools together for a common training. There was a discussion about the issue of getting substitutes and what timing would be best for the training. There is also a sense that breaking the training into K-2 and 3-5 sessions would be helpful. Owen will discuss the possibility of establishing a PREP-wide inservice day with area superintendents that would allow for multiple teachers to access trainings. Owen is looking at having a phone conference with a professional development representative from Everyday Mathematics on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This will also be the rescheduled date for the next PREP meeting. Owen will contact UTC about a meeting space and the availability of a speaker phone for a conference call.

Owen passed out a copy of the PD calendar for January's activities. The Tier 1 PBIS training was cancelled on December 8<sup>th</sup> because of snow and has been rescheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Virtual High School- The districts that have expressed interest in getting involved in this program (MSAD 31, MSAD 41, and RSU 25) will be able to register two students to take classes beginning in January. The cost is \$460 for each student, but if a system has a teacher who is trained, the costs can be reduced. There will also be a training in March to establish site coordinators. This training is at no cost to PREP schools. The teacher training is substantially more expensive.

- State Updates

Mary distributed two State updates. The first is about Highly Qualified Status and the second addresses the regional meetings that have been set up to provide professional development around Rtl. There was a bit of discussion around the focus of these meetings, and there is some sense that the state is not yet clear about what they are sharing. Some individuals expressed

hesitancy about getting involved at this point, given that there has been so much professional development offered through PREP. Mary shared that her district will be sending representatives and she will be happy to report back to the group.

Interest was expressed in having a discussion at some point that would focus on the implementation of RtI with a coherent K-12 focus. There were comments about the challenges that individuals are experiencing at the high school level (e.g. use of NWEA as a universal screening tool).

- MCLA Update  
No updates at this time.
- Literacy Cohort  
Meredith O'Reilly is working with the members of the literacy cohort. They have organized themselves into interest areas which will be investigated with the goal of having groups form their own professional learning communities. The end goal is to have each teacher able to deliver a workshop in their home school on their particular topics.

## 2. New Business

- Book Study- Ellen will facilitate a discussion of chapters 4-6 at the January meeting.
- Technology Initiative- Shawn Kimball from Hampden Academy is interested in forming a professional learning community for technical integrators in the greater Bangor area. There was some discussion about how this group might gather (i.e. when and where would they meet, what would be the timing be, etc.), and there was a discussion of what the role of a "technology integrator" is. The sense is that these individuals are the support people who assist teachers in implementing technology in the classroom. Some of these individuals are also technology teachers. Others have building administrators who serve in this role. Maureen will forward Shawn's e-mail to us so we can distribute the e-mail to the appropriate individuals in our schools.

Owen is willing to offer this group a meeting space in January. He recommended that the group develop a mission statement and to determine what their short term goals are. This would be helpful information in assisting PREP in knowing how to might support this work. This support might include advocating for the group to have professional development time during the school day, support of curriculum coordinators articulated to superintendents. Maureen will include a statement on the forwarded e-mail that reflects Owen's recommendations.

- Gretchen Faulkner- from the Hudson Museum shared an update as to what is available since the museum has reopened. Her review included photos of the renovation and some pictures of existing exhibits. The approach to the collections arrangement is now focusing on similarities and differences between cultures as well as looking at how cultures solved problems. Unlike the state museum in Augusta and the Abbe, this museum offers exhibits about Maine Native Americans as well as from cultures across the country and

beyond. The Hudson Museum has developed a Maine Indian Gallery and has worked with members of the Maine Basket-Makers Alliance and has also developed videos of Maine Native American artisans. There is a climate change kiosk under development which will open soon. The website is also a helpful tool. There are a number of curriculum resources on-line, and materials can be borrowed as well.

Gretchen wondered when it would be best to offer inservice opportunities to teachers. The sense is that it would be best to just go ahead and schedule a date as it is difficult to anticipate what might work best.

On the web-site, people can find videos of Native peoples sharing information about their craft and the process that is used to create baskets, harvest ash, etc. There was conversation about possibility of the Museum offering scholarships to schools to cover the costs of transportation to get to the museum. Gretchen asked what amount would be helpful. Ellen noted that her district generally budgets \$5 per student when estimating costs.

The newsletter is a tool for getting information out to people regarding the resources that are available at the Hudson Museum. This includes the museum exhibits as well as all of the information that is available on-line. Owen will work on getting the newsletter posted on PREP's website as well as a link to the Hudson Museum's website.

- Learning Goals and Objectives- Cathy shared the process that she and the teachers in her district used to develop assessments. The teachers did some pre-reading, and they came together to look at the language Marzano utilizes and then developed a summative assessment that they could use with their students. Cathy shared some hand-outs that have guided their work.

Owen raised the possibility of having Cathy share her information through a webinar. This would offer a launching point for others as they enter into this work. This will be a topic of discussion on January's agenda. It would be helpful if people could give some consideration to the kinds of questions that staff members might have as they begin looking at this process.

- Other- Davinci Website- "Future of Education" under articles. Ellen highly recommends this. Ellen will resend the link to us. (Mary already took care of it.)

Pam wishes to thank all of the school administrators for their assistance in placing so many students in their student-teaching experiences. Pam may need to contact administrators again as there are a number of students who have yet to be placed for their field experience. She may e-mail a number of us to ask for our assistance as well.

- Next Meeting Date  
We will meet at 9:00AM on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### This Year's Meeting Dates

February 22

March 22

April 12

May 17

January Agenda

Old Business

- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates
- Literacy Cohort Update
- Virtual high school update

New Business

- Discussion of *Choice Words*- Chapters 4-6 (Ellen will facilitate)
- Follow-up discussion of the information about correlations between MAP's, SAT's, PSAT's, NECAP's, etc.
- Webinar possibilities with Cathy's presentation on standards-referenced assessments
- RtI conversation about the K-12 perspective (high school challenges)