

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

December 13, 2010

UTC

Attending: Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Ellen Almquist, Owen Maurais, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, Cathy Menard, Pam Kimball, Judy Pusey, Joanie Speyer, and Donna Oliver. (Susan McKay and John Thompson attended the first part of the meeting.)

Many thanks to Donna for providing us with such delicious treats!

Old Business

Dr. Susan McKay and John Thompson provided an update regarding the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership. Susan shared that she had received a number of questions regarding the Partnership and wanted to review them. The first question was about a survey from Inverness that was sent to all physical science teachers. It is accessible through Survey Monkey. Originally, responses were requested by Thanksgiving, but they will continue to be accepted. At this point, about half of the surveys have been returned. The input will be used for research purposes, and Susan stressed how helpful the data will be. Curriculum Coordinators are asked to encourage teachers to complete the task. Inverness is going to resend the survey for those who have not responded. Owen asked Susan if curriculum coordinators could be informed when the survey has been resent.

The second question asked what the criteria are for involvement in the Partnership? Concern was expressed about the dwindling participation in the evening meetings. Susan assured everyone that by being part of PREP, we're all part of the collaborative. There are certainly different levels of involvement. The more teachers that can be involved in the selection process, the better the outcome will be. Curriculum Coordinators are asked to encourage teachers to attend the meetings, but the reality is that there are many demands on people's time. The expectation is that there will be approximately 25 teachers involved in the curriculum implementation during the first year. An additional 25 the second and so on. By the end of the 4 years, approximately 100 individuals will have been trained on program implementation and will be utilizing the selected program.

Principals who are interested in having teachers pilot materials are asked to send a letter of interest (a couple of pages) to the partnership indicating their plan for implementation. The letter should convey how many teachers are interested, at which grade levels, and the letter should indicate that there is administrative support for the implementation of the program. The Leadership Team is planning a meeting to finalize the process around selection of teachers for the first cohort. In January or early February, information about the process will be sent to schools with the expectation that letters will be submitted within a couple of months.

The summer institute will be held during the last week in June, from the 27th through Friday, July 1st. Teachers will be paid \$1,000 for their attendance, and the institute will be held at the Schoodic Education Center. This experience will provide support and prepare teachers for piloting the curriculum.

Susan mentioned her enthusiasm over the work that occurred on Saturday, December 4th. The teachers (5 teams of 6) identified a number of criteria that they would look for in curriculum materials. Some items mentioned include: differentiated instruction with an eye toward the needs of special education students as well as those of more advanced students. Interest was also expressed in having a flexible program as well as it offering many different types of assessments; not just multiple choice items.

Susan asked for the names of people who might be interested in participating in the work of the Partnership. There may be people who have recently retired, those who have not been able to find work, etc. She welcomes people sending her the names of those who might be interested in working 10, 20, or more hours a week. The leadership team would appreciate having input behind the scenes, participation in some of the planning, assistance with facilitating meetings, along with other tasks. There will be opportunities for summer work for teachers as well. Given that many teachers are so busy during the year, this might be more doable. The schedules can be flexible (e.g. 3 week assignments, 5 weeks, etc.)

John Thompson reflected on the process that was used on Saturday for curriculum selection. He noted that a lot of time was devoted to hearing what people's needs are. Different types of assessments, integration in technology, and others were mentioned. These were in keeping with the facets articulated in the AAAS Project 2061 guidelines.

The feedback from participants showed a great deal of appreciation for working with colleagues, and there was tremendous interest in exploring curriculum materials. At Saturday's session, there was a question regarding the process that was used to select the materials that made "the cut" to be one of the 5 to review. This information was shared, and participants were comfortable with the criteria and the results of this initial review. The five that made it to the review round include:

Science and Technologies
Interactions in Physical Sciences
PBIS
SEPIUP
Foss Full Option Science System

Owen asked if curriculum coordinators would be interested in what has transpired at the Saturday sessions. Susan said that she will plan on a 20 minute presentation in January. Susan offered to have people send questions at any point, either to her or to the partnership e-mail (partnershipinfo@maine.edu).

Professional development activities- Owen noted that there has been tremendous participation in the PD offerings this year. Each has had approximately 70 participants for Sharon Greaney's and Diane Jackson's sessions. The evaluations continue to be very strong. John Mugnai shared that his teachers have had wonderful feedback about the sessions they have attended. Ellen commented that she appreciates having quality programming in both mathematics and literacy and hopes this will be able to continue.

There was follow-up conversation about professional development opportunities for middle and high school teachers. Maureen Montgomery will be inquiring with Michele Mailhot and Anita Bernhardt at the DOE to assist with sessions in math/literacy and science/literacy. Each content area will have two-day sessions. Owen provided a handout with information regarding the dates (and snow dates) for each of these activities. The first afternoon session will focus on what people want to implement within their classrooms. The second session will build on that and additional tools will be provided. The sessions will be focused on the needs of teachers in grades 6-12.

Math

- February 2nd with a snow date of February 16th
- March 2nd with a snow date of March 26th

Science

- January 31st with a snow date of February 4th
- March 30th with a snow date of April 5th

The sessions will be offered again in the fall in hopes of accommodating the interest level.

Owen asked people to think about an individual who might assist with social studies so an offering can be provided for that content area. Jana Boody's name was mentioned as a possibility. She is already working with Maureen on a project, and Owen will follow-up with Maureen.

Owen asks that districts try to divide the number of participants at professional development sessions as evenly as possible to make the numbers fairly consistent.

Deb Bradburn has confirmed her availability for additional sessions in August for Everyday Math. More information will be available in the coming months.

Investigations- Owen asked about areas of focus. Fidelity issues were suggested as a topic. Content knowledge was also mentioned as an area of need, but it was noted that this would be too broad. A suggestion was made to raise people's awareness of the differences between the old and new versions of the programs. Mary commented that the Everyday Math facilitators focused on the critical importance of the pacing guides during their sessions last summer. This raised the awareness as to how critical it is to adhere to these. The thinking is that it would also be important to have this stressed during the Investigations training.

Before the holidays, Owen will develop an outline for learning targets for the sessions and get it out to curriculum coordinators for feedback. We were also asked to give teachers a heads-up about the training and ask for their input regarding areas of interest and preferences around format. The trainings will be offered in August prior to the beginning of the school year.

PBIS- There was a meeting of the leadership team last week. Jim Artesani is willing to meet with all of the schools between February 15th and April 15th. This will provide individual support at the building level. There will be additional professional development opportunities relating to classroom management and PBIS strategies for K-5 teachers and 6-8 teachers. Further information will be coming out soon.

Two additional professional development days will be offered for high school staff. These will be intended for new people who have not yet taken part in PBIS. It will be recommended that principals attend the session if they have not yet participated. A breakfast is being planned for principals/key people (2 from each district) doing PBIS in order to get them involved in the planning process for the two day sessions. The idea is to train 10 additional people at the high school level; five on each day.

Owen is still working on providing PD this summer for high school staff. Owen is hoping get the Summersworth principal to do a 20 minute key note to speak to the changes that they have been able to put in place.

AP Course Discussion- The group discussed the numbers of students participating in various courses. The possibility of collaborating with area schools was raised at a recent superintendent's meeting. The thinking is that there may be courses that could be offered through polycom or some other form of technology. This could potentially improve schools' abilities to increase the diversity of offerings for students. There was some discussion regarding logistical issues. It was suggested that we may want to consult with those who have experience with this as it could inform our process. Owen will provide us with an updated table to facilitate a conversation with administrative teams in order to determine the level of interest in this type of programming. A meeting would be planned for those who want to pursue this, and the intent would be to begin offering courses in the fall of 2012.

Joanie provided a proposal (handout) for our book study. She mentioned 2 articles that would provide good background information for our study. She will send the article as a PDF document and provide us with the link to the *New York Times*. The design of the book study was intended to provide everyone with a plan that could be implemented within our districts. The group agreed to divide the reading and discussion into three meeting sessions. We will block off meeting times on April 25th and May 16th from 8:30AM until 12:00PM to allow for extended planning. For the January 10th meeting, we will read the Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

State Updates

Mary gave an overview of the information on the DOE's website which she forwarded to us last week. She did note that there are implications for those systems that are in the process of contracting with superintendents for next year.

MCLA

Beth shared that the Board met on November 19th and reviewed the applications that were submitted to assist MCLA to "more fully develop its organization within the framework of the following standing committees and the mission and vision of the MCLA." The committees include: Budget; Public Relations/Communications; Liaison with Other Organizations; Marketing; and Policy Position and Development. After reviewing and discussing applications, the Board voted to hire Mary Jane McCalmon to facilitate our next steps. She is being asked to develop a timeline for the activities. Also, the MCLA Spring Conference will be held on May 2nd at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. Bea McGarvey will be our presenter, and the spring conference committee will be determining the focus. If people have suggestions, please let Beth know.

Other

Cathy shared that Donna Vigue has a detached retina. She had surgery on Thursday night and is waiting to find out how long her recovery process will take. We wish her well-soon!

Owen recently met with DEEP. He shared the extensive activities that have been occurring within PREP and outlined the possibilities of them joining PREP. A concern was mentioned related to the distance DEEP schools are from the Bangor area. Owen noted that a third session could be offered in the Ellsworth area. There was interest expressed from that group regarding the arts, and Owen noted that there is currently work going on with PREP guidance counselors that could be replicated with the teachers of the arts. There were also concerns expressed by DEEP members about the personalization that might be lost with joining PREP.

Sandra shared that her system is investigating handwriting strategies/programs because of the significant numbers of referrals to special education for students who have fine motor issues. Most PREP schools are currently using *Handwriting Without Tears*.

Diane Jackson joined the meeting to share the possibilities around die-cuts for making various manipulatives including fractions and geometric shapes. Clock faces and base 10 blocks can also be created. Diane suggested that PREP might be interested in acquiring several of these die-cuts which could be shared between the schools. She will survey a number of teachers to determine which die-cuts are currently owned by PREP schools. Once it is determined which ones should be purchased, Owen will initiate the process.

New Business

Other

Mentoring certificates- 2 hours will be added to the 2 days and Owen said they will be sent out in January (14 hours).

January Agenda

Old Business

- Updates from Susan McKay/Michael Wittmann
- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates

New Business

- High school PBIS training for the summer
- Summer training for Investigations
- Book Study

Meeting Dates for 2010-2011

Jan. 10th

Feb 14th

March 21st

April 25th

May 16th