

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

December 15, 2008

UTC

Attending: Ellen Almquist, Mary Giard, Debbie Bird, Liz Huggins, Kristen McCollum, Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, and Judy Pusey, Owen Maurais, Donna Oliver, and Pam Kimball

Ellen opened the meeting with two of Lance Gentile's guides from Pearson: The Oral Language Acquisition Inventory (OLAI) and The Oracy Instructional Guide. They link "research and theory to assessment and instruction," and they are based on Marie Clay's work. Ellen's district will be trained to use these tools. A question was raised as to whether other districts might be able to participate in the training. Ellen will investigate this possibility.

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen reviewed the professional development offerings that have been held this fall. The K-6 results from Marica Boody's sessions have been very positive. The same can be said of the programs that Jane Welman-Little and Jan Kristo offered. The results from Sue Card's second session with the "new cohort" were also very positive. She has one session remaining. The 2nd year cohort was discontinued after the first session. Ellen Holmes had approximately 30 people in attendance at her PLC session. The feedback was very favorable. With respect to Lee Goss's work on RTI, the results have been somewhat mixed. Approximately 2/3 of the attendees felt the program was effective. Approximately 1/3 of the respondents felt the program did not meet their needs. The feedback based on the work with Jim Artesani indicates a discrepancy between the level of understanding of teachers from the middle schools and high schools.

Owen asked that systems complete the "Pre-Referral Survey." This will provide the information needed to better address the current needs. Future sessions may need to be tailored to specific grade spans.

Mary will be attending a meeting for the "Center for Inquiry on Literacy" on Wednesday. The group will be providing feedback to the Commissioner regarding the pre-referral process. She welcomes any feedback you would like to share with her by tomorrow, and she will convey this to the meeting participants.

Ellen raised a question that Sue Card brought to her. Do we want to provide a 3rd session for the new cohort? There was conversation as to what content might be provided at that session. There was also a question as to whether or not a full-day program would be

warranted. The content may include data analysis, working with reluctant staff, or other possibilities that have not been covered to date.

Owen reviewed Ellen Holmes's letter in which she outlined a possible focus for her next session. She requested that participants bring SMART goals and data from the state, district, school and classroom levels. The data should be that which is used to inform their goals.

During the last 4-6th grade literacy session, there were very few people. Owen will check in with curriculum coordinators to see how many teachers will be sent to the 2nd and 3rd grade session and to the 4-6th grade session. If the number of participants is low, the two groups may be combined. The program that was scheduled for Friday, December 12th (reading, grades 6-12) has been rescheduled to January 13th. The Planning meeting that was scheduled for that afternoon will be held on January 28th from 12:00-2:00PM.

Owen asked for feedback on the Pre-Referral survey, the process, etc. Owen mentioned that some comments on the feedback forms express concerns over the lack of specificity for individual districts. Others say that the sessions are providing what is needed. A request was made to have direction provided as to how assessments that are currently being utilized might provide data for RTI as opposed to incorporating additional assessments such as DIBELS, AIMSWEB, etc. With respect to future professional development sessions, concerns were raised about having teachers out of the classrooms and the need for substitutes. There are currently 6 more professional development sessions scheduled for the remainder of the year. The question is what would be most helpful to offer during those days. A number of people expressed a need to get information from their administrative team, teacher leaders, etc. regarding the current needs. Owen was requesting that a process be established as to how we will move forward.

Owen asked the group about program development needs, professional needs, for Tier 1, Tier 2, etc. Discussing and developing a Tier 1 framework at the high school level seems to be a critical need. Ellen mentioned her concerns around getting this established in the high school for both reading and math. She feels as though her district has significant resources for reading, but that is not necessarily the case for math.

Owen asked the group to decide on what the priorities are as we move forward. A suggestion was made to offer a series of workshops that would focus on specific grade spans and offer strategies. Owen asked that we consider, "What are the needs? "What's reasonable for next steps?" These questions will be the focus for the planning conversation that will be held in January. Owen will contact MMSA to see what resources/guidance they might be able to provide.

On the January 26th PREP meeting agenda, an item will be included to allow time for individuals to discuss where their districts are and to determine what outcomes are desired for reading and math initiatives and for teachers. The PREP meeting will begin at 9:00AM that day.

John Maddus informed Owen that there is a Master's degree candidate who needs a placement. John will be joining us for lunch to discuss this possibility further.

- State Updates

Donna Oliver provided updates from the State. Please refer to the hand-outs she provided.

- MCLA Update

Beth shared that the April 2nd spring conference will focus on data. Tentatively, there are plans to have a group from Pond Cove Elementary School (Cape Elizabeth) share the process they have been using as they review student data. There will most likely be a session for advanced users of NWEA data and a session that will address the capabilities of the Infinite Campus data module.

MCLA has been given approval for non-profit, tax-exempt status by the IRS.

The Board will be posting the At-Large position that is currently being held by Tom Keller. All members of MCLA are eligible, and the advertisement will be posted by the end of April.

An omission- The membership year will be moved to begin early in the school year.

The DOE is currently investigating the possibilities around working with Robert Marzano. Interest has been expressed in developing rubrics at the State level for the core content areas. MCLA is in hopes of having Marzano back for the fall 2009 conference. Further planning will involve conversations with the DOE as to what might be offered.

- Literacy Cohort

Kristen reported that the Literacy Cohort will be meeting again in February.

2. New Business

- Teacher PREP Committee

This group will be reviewing all of the lesson plans and unit plans that have been posted on the PREP website. The PREP website is currently undergoing revision. The plan is to have it up and running in January. The revision will allow various PREP groups to post minutes and will also provide links to other sites (i.e. Maine DOE, various educational groups). The site will contain Power Point presentations, the ability to construct documents collaboratively, etc.

- A Colby College Survey about Maine Boys

Owen will forward the results of the survey to everyone, and we will include a conversation about this on the January agenda.

- Student Placements

Pam thanked everyone for the support that has been provided in getting placements for University student teachers. Things are going very smoothly.

- Virtual High School

Sandra reported that the pilot is going very well. There is interest with continuing and expanding the use of Virtual High School next year. The quality of courses available has been very good.

Reminder- Meeting on January 9th at 9:00AM at Bagel Central in Bangor. All are welcome to attend to dialogue about the current status of RTI in individual districts (Snow date- January 16th)

Next Agenda- Meeting to begin at 9:00AM

Old Business

- RTI Conversation
- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates
- Status of PLC Work
- Discussion of EMCC meeting

New Business

- Book study- The group will read chapters 1-3 from Doug Reeves new book *Reframing Teacher Leadership to Improve Your School* for the January meeting. Beth will facilitate the conversation for that session.
- Conversation about a focus for next year
- Discuss revised PREP website