

# PREP

## Penobscot River Educational Partnership

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### Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

February 14, 2011

UTC

Attending: Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Owen Maurais, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, Cathy Menard, Pam Kimball, Judy Pusey, Joanie Speyer, Donna Vigue, and Donna Oliver.

#### **Maine PSP Update**

John Thompson, Michael Wittmann, Susan McKay, and Liz Burroughs from the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership team at the University provided an update/overview of what has occurred to date and what we can expect going forward.

Dr. Susan McKay mentioned three opportunities that educators should be aware of. The first is an opportunity that will take place during April Vacation. Any teachers who would like to work Monday through Wednesday or Monday through Thursday doing observations in the learning labs at the University should return the application form to Liz Burroughs by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Participants will be trained prior to any observations. Each participant will earn \$200 per day. Liz Burroughs is the contact person and can be reached at [Elizabeth.Burroughs@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Burroughs@umit.maine.edu) and (207) 581-1058.

Summer Academy- There will be a week-long summer academy at the end of June. Priority will be given to those who will be piloting the curriculum materials through the Physical Sciences Partnership. Fifth through ninth grade teachers may apply.

For teachers in grades 6-10, a summer "Teacher in Residence" program will be offered with a focus on the preparation of the pilot curriculum and addressing any needs prior to the materials going into the field. For 4-6 weeks of work, individuals will be paid \$1,000 per week. Another component will involve the data collection relating to the research component of the grant. Applications will be posted on the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership website soon.

Owen Maurais referred to the summary provided by the Maine PSP regarding the grant initiative. The first 3 pages are intended to provide information regarding what has occurred to date. The fourth page is a curriculum planning document for individuals to express their interest in becoming involved in the piloting program.

The curriculum development work through the grant will provide 1.5 years of curriculum for middle school grades. It is up to the individual system to determine when it will be utilized. The expectation is that this curriculum will be vertically aligned with what students will be experiencing in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Work on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade program is currently underway and will be continuing.

Modeling is a key component of the implementation process in learning to use the new materials. University professors, master's candidates, as well as others will be available at every stage of the process. Supporting teachers in the use of new lessons will occur in a variety of ways. Providing demonstrations, co-teaching, and modeling in the pilot teacher's classroom will be a few of the many resources that will be available to those piloting the selected curriculum materials.

Two outcomes of the grant include an increase in student achievement, and teachers will become more effective and efficient. There will also be more consistency within the structure of the programs (vertical alignment).

The collaboratives that have been meeting every 3 weeks or so during this school year were discussed. They will be continuing throughout the 5 year grant cycle, and this was stressed as an important professional development activity.

Resource coordinators will make sure that piloting teachers are provided all materials necessary for lessons. A resource person would be available to assist with the use of the materials (team teaching, modeling, etc.). Feedback on the use of each of these units will be available to teachers who have not yet used the materials. For those teachers who do participate in the pilot, the expectation is that they will continue to attend professional development sessions as they are offered.

A question was raised regarding the access to materials once the grant has concluded. Susan McKay shared her hope that the model for sharing resources and collaborating will continue after the grant. Curriculum coordinators are asked to consider what strategies might be effective to this end. This is still a few years off, but it will need to be addressed in the future.

There was a second question targeting the selection process for applicants. If a system has 5 individuals submit applications, what would be the likelihood as to whether a team could attend the academy as a cohort? Owen recommended that curriculum coordinators note their preferences around this on the applications. It will likely take 2 years to train all individuals who indicate a desire to attend the academy.

The deadline for submitting the application for participation in the academy is March 31<sup>st</sup>. The application is designed to make the expectations for participation clear to all. There is a commitment for implementation of the curriculum, attendance at professional development trainings, and support is expected from administration. Any questions can be addressed to [partnershipinfo@maine.edu](mailto:partnershipinfo@maine.edu). The summer "teacher in residence" application will be online in approximately a week.

The Foss and STC Kits have been removed from the list of possible materials in the selection process based on feedback from those who have been involved in the review process. The current focus is on PBIS and SEPIUP. Interactions in Physical Sciences will be the next set of materials to review.

## **Old Business**

Updates from Owen

### **Professional development activities**

**Mentor training** with Donna will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August. Dedee Barnell will be co-facilitating the training. The sessions will be held at the Eddington School from 8:30AM-2:30PM.

### **Math Professional Development**

**Everyday Math** trainings will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> (K teachers on the 17<sup>th</sup>, teachers in grades 1-3 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and grades 4 and 5 on the 19<sup>th</sup>) The trainings will be held in Hampden, specific site- TBD.

**Investigations** trainings will be held from August 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> (The same format as above will be used for grade level groupings. Owen received an e-mail from Cynthia Hillman-Forbush with a few questions. Those who would like to respond to the e-mail Owen has forwarded to the group can get back to him with feedback. The trainings will be held at Enfield Station School.

Sharon Greaney is willing to offer 4 days of professional development through PREP next year. At our March meeting, we will discuss these possibilities as well as other potential offerings for next year.

This Wednesday the math literacy session will be held at the Herbert Seargent Community Center beginning at 8:30AM. Maureen Montgomery and Michele Mailhot will be facilitating. The science session went well.

The breakfast for principals, lead teachers, and other persons involved in PBIS will be held on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the University.

### State Updates

Mary gave an overview of the information on the DOE's website which she forwarded to us last week. The Talent Pool applications are available now for recommendations for teaches in grades 6-12. The Milliken Awards are associated with this process. The approval of teacher evaluation systems was mentioned as was the update on the MHSA/SAT initiative guidelines.

### MCLA

Beth shared that the Board met on January 28<sup>th</sup>. A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to working with Mary Jane McCalmon to clarify the organization of the committee structure. Another session will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> to further this work.

The Spring Conference will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. Bea McGarvey will be the presenter. Ellen shared that Inevitable, Bea McGarvey's new book about "mass, customized, learning" is excellent. She highly recommends it.

## **New Business**

Book Study

The group followed the protocol Joanie developed. Groups of 3 or 4 individuals discussed the top 8-10 techniques that would be offered as a “package” to our school systems and we were also to highlight the top 3 techniques selected by the group. Individuals reported their groups’ suggestions and summarized the conversations.

Regan Nickels, Principal at Weatherbee School in Hampden and Board member for ASCD, shared a Power Point presentation about Maine ASCD and the professional development opportunities it offers.

The three major areas she emphasized include:

1. An interest in reintroducing individuals to Maine ASCD- Its new moto is “Learn. Teach. Lead.” There are currently 300 members in Maine. Maine ASCD is interested in knowing what professional development opportunities are needed around the state. Individuals can access [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org) and [www.maineascd.org](http://www.maineascd.org) for further information.
2. Regan shared a PowerPoint- The new directions and areas of emphasis for the organization at the national level include improving student performance and closing the achievement gap for all learners, providing equity and access, and to increase capacity building. Another major focus is on the rewrite and reauthorization of ESEA.
3. Upcoming spring conference offering through Maine ASCD- Bea McGarvey and Chuck Schwahn will be at Keeley Banquet Center in Portland on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Other PD opportunities around the state have included book studies in various regions. Comments were shared regarding limited access to professional development opportunities for educators in the northern half of the state as most events are offered in the southern Maine area.

#### February Agenda

##### Old Business

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

##### New Business

- Professional development activities for next year
- Book Study

#### Meeting Dates for 2010-2011

March 21<sup>st</sup>

April 25<sup>th</sup>

May 16<sup>th</sup>