

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

January 10, 2011

UTC

Attending: Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Owen Maurais, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, Cathy Menard, Pam Kimball, Judy Pusey, Joanie Speyer, and Donna Oliver. (Susan McKay, Michael Wittmann, and Dr. Katrina Black attended the first part of the meeting.) Susan Smith was visiting from the Downeast Educational Partnership.

Old Business

Dr. Susan McKay introduced Katrina Black who has been very involved in the curriculum selection process. Dr. Black shared a PowerPoint that overviews the curriculum evaluation process. Middle and high school science teachers are involved in the review process. Dr. Black outlined the selection criteria as was developed by the grant writers and endorsed by RSUs. It is based on the AAAS guidelines for curriculum selection and has also integrated the requirements as targeted by the participants in the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership. The presence of appropriate mathematics, integration of technology, the ability to engage students meaningfully, differentiation of instruction, and the incorporation of literacy strategies are 5 criteria that were particularly important to the Partnership participants.

The following 5 programs are currently under review: Science and Technologies, Interactions in Physical Sciences, PBIS, SEPIUP, and Foss Full Option Science System. Participating teachers are being assigned to evaluation teams. Once the team is established, a program is assigned to them, participants do an individual review, and then each pair will review materials for a specific aspect of the physical sciences. Once work has been done in pairs, the whole team reviews the materials and produces an AAAS report. The teams then review another set of materials.

The leadership team will make a recommendation about which curriculum will be selected based on the reports that are developed through this process. Input will also be elicited from the participants who engage in the review process. The next meeting for the review of curriculum will be on Saturday, January 15th.

Dr. McKay shared that Inverness has sent out a final call for survey responses to be submitted by January 14th. Any additional participation that can be generated would be very helpful.

The leadership team met recently to discuss how the curriculum will be piloted. On the 14th of February, curriculum coordinators from PREP as well as those from area schools who are participants in the partnership will develop a process for establishing the guidelines for pilot participation. The hope is that every unit will have some training in the implementation of curriculum materials during the first two years. The plan will need

to be solidified by early spring in order to offer the first round of training this summer. In addition to the summer academy that is being offered, there are positions available for “teachers in residence.” There is flexibility in the number of days worked each week. The plan is to develop resources that can be placed on-line for easy access as well as providing teachers with opportunities to share materials. Dr. McKay will be sending out information about the positions and the application process in the near future.

A question was asked about 9th grade teachers and their participation in selecting curricular materials. Dr. McKay stated that they will engage in a process parallel to what is going on with the middle level work. It was noted that this process will lag behind the middle level process by about a month or so.

A question was raised about the possibility of video-taping some of the training sessions which could be archived for later use. Michael shared that there is significant interest in this idea. The challenge is getting signed releases for students who are younger than 18 years of age. Because of this, recordings will likely be made of teachers/trainers as they are instructing participating college students during the academies and at other professional development activities.

The next Collaborative session will be on January 20th. The location has not yet been determined. The calendar of events can be accessed on-line, but sessions will be occurring every two to three weeks. The collaborative will be exploring lessons from the materials that are under review.

Owen introduced Susan Smith who was visiting from Downeast Educational Partnership.

Updates from Owen

Professional development activities- Owen reviewed the inservice opportunities that have been scheduled for the remainder of the year. The PREP website has the updated version of the calendar. The literacy sessions will be facilitated by Maureen Montgomery, Anita Bernhardt (science) and Michele Mailhot (mathematics). Owen will be sending out an e-mail with requests for numbers of participants in the near future.

Next year’s professional development-

Deb and Deb have confirmed their facilitation of additional sessions for Everyday Mathematics during the last 2 weeks in August. Owen is recommending 3 days during the week of August 15th. Hampden is willing to host again next summer.

Owen will work on putting together an Investigations series during the same week of August that would follow the same format as that which was developed for Everyday Mathematics.

Mentor training- The same format will be utilized for mentor training this coming summer as was used during the last. Donna has agreed to facilitate, and she and Owen will decide on a date prior to our next meeting.

Owen will ask Sharon Greaney to come to our March PREP meeting and discuss her reflections from her work with PREP during the past two years and to talk about next steps. We will also discuss the need for future sessions for mathematics at that meeting.

AP Course Collaboration- Owen will organize a meeting for principals to discuss possibilities for collaborating between or among systems to enhance the offerings of AP courses. The current vision is to have all course-sharing opportunities happen virtually. This effort may involve only 2 or 3 schools at the outset, and others may join in future years.

High School Principals' Session for PBIS- Owen is in conversation with the principal from Somersworth High School regarding the possibility of her providing a keynote presentation at a breakfast meeting for high school principals. The agreed upon start time would be 7:30AM. This will be the precursor for PBIS trainings that will occur during the summer.

Owen disseminated the estimated assessments for FY 2011. There was concern expressed about the amount of time teachers are out of the classroom and the expenses related to having substitute teachers. The group will brainstorm some solutions to these concerns at a future meeting.

State Updates

Mary gave an overview of the information on the DOE's website which she forwarded to us last week. There were some items about physical plants, special education, and an RFP for school health coordinators. Also, USM is hosting a session entitled, "***Multiple Measures of Educator Effectiveness: Bridging Research and Practice Conference.***" The conference is on January 12th.

MCLA

No Updates at this time.

New Business

Book Study

The group followed the protocol Joanie developed. The group agreed that the protocol Joanie selected provided a helpful framework for exploring the materials in the introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Other

Donna Vigue is continuing her recovery. We look forward to her returning as soon as she is able.

February 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

Feb 14th

March 21st

April 25th

May 16th