

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

March 16, 2009

UTC

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

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen shared the updates for the remaining PREP professional development offerings for the year. He distributed hand-outs that provide overviews of each of the sessions. Owen will be touching base with people this week to get the numbers of individuals who will be participating. Owen also discussed the Pre-referral initiative and the goals for the May 11th meeting. He requested that one or two representatives from each district participate in the planning session, and he will announce the location of the meeting as soon as possible.

Staff development for next year was discussed. A concern was expressed about the potential need for additional funds beyond the \$1,500 that PREP schools will be contributing for next year. Owen asked about the priorities for staff development offerings for the coming year. A request was made to offer sessions at several different times of day. Providing late afternoon sessions may support participation from those who are unable to hire substitutes. Providing access through distance learning options was also discussed.

Priorities that were mentioned include: nonfiction content literacy, best practices around content area literacy; continued work with K-12 staff members on PLC's including a focus on the change process. Pre-referral work will include math, literacy, and behavior. Writing and differentiated instruction were also mentioned. The possibility of having Ellen Holmes work with individual districts in a consultant role to address situational issues was also discussed. It was mentioned that collaborating on a first-aid and CPR training would be helpful and most likely cost-effective.

Resource people who might facilitate sessions included: Jane Wellman-Little, Jan Kristo, Ellen Holmes, and Gail Garthwait, who is working on the web portal around differentiation. (Gail will be presenting this concept at our next meeting on April 13th at 9:00AM. Individuals are encouraged to invite someone from their district to attend.)

Owen requests that curriculum coordinators get feedback from their districts around the professional development options that were discussed above. Also, please consider

individuals who may be interested in offering sessions for next year. The hope is to find individuals who would be able to participate for a stipend or nominal fee.

Owen shared a report, “The Gender Divide” and mentioned that PREP may wish to offer the session, “Boys and Mental Health: What Schools Need to Know” in the fall. Please read the report for the April 13th meeting and consider the possibilities around such an offering.

- State Updates

Donna provided updates from the State. Please refer to the hand-outs she provided. There was also a discussion of the implications for Title I funding for next year as well as some additional funds for Title II-D. It was recommended that individuals contact Dennis Kuntz for additional information. The current speculation is that districts may receive between a 5-10% reduction in Title I funds. It was also mentioned that the DOE’s website contains a report that addresses the survey on unfunded mandates.

- MCLA Update

Beth noted that members who have not registered for the MCLA spring conference will receive an e-mail ensuring that they have received the information. There are no updates from the Board at this time. The next meeting is on March 20th.

There was a brief discussion about the work that the DOE said it was committed to doing around rubric development for each content area (with Bob Marzano and other members of the Re-Inventing Schools Coalition team). There is no additional information as to what the status of this work is. Comments were made about this direction being very similar to that which RISC is/was involved with in Alaska. Delivering on the Promise was mentioned as it articulates that process that the Chugach School District undertook as it was transformed into a standards-based educational system.

- Literacy Cohort

Kristen asked if participating districts have been informed about the blog that is up and running. Also, the Writers’ Collaborative is offering a free two-day summer institute for participating districts to send as many individuals as they are currently sending to the sessions. The districts can elect to send new participants. Kristen will investigate the possibilities of offering this institute during the first week in August.

- Virtual High School

Sandra mentioned that the 3 schools using Virtual High School are planning to increase the number of seats that they will offer their students next year. The recommendation is that each site wishing to participate has a site coordinator. The training involves a 6 week on-line course. The next available one will be offered in the fall.

- Distance Learning Opportunities

Sandra mentioned that her system in looking into the possibilities around acquiring a polycom which would expand opportunities for distance learning.

- ERL 319

Owen asked if there are other systems who are interested in having ERL 319 students in classrooms within their districts. Bucksport is discussing the possibilities with Susan Bennett-Armistead.

- Immediate Job Opportunity

District #41 would like to hire a part-time curriculum coordinator. If anyone knows of an individual who might be interested, he/she should contact Cathy Knox at cknox@sad41.org.

2. New Business

Book Study

Pam facilitated the discussion of chapters 4-6 from Reframing Teacher Leadership by Douglas Reeves using the protocol “Block Party.” Individuals made a number of comments about the helpful and practical ideas for impacting instructional practices that were written about in these chapters.

Round table.

Next Agenda- Meeting to begin at 9:00AM

Presentation by Gail Garthwait on the web portal that is in development

Old Business

- Updates from Owen (professional development offerings for next year)
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates
- Literacy Cohort Update

New Business

- Report- The Gender Divide
- Book study (possibilities)