

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

May 18, 2009
UTC

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

Cathy Menard was welcomed as a new member. MSAD #31 has joined PREP, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with Cathy and her district.

John Mugnai was introduced as the person who will be attending PREP meetings next year from Orrington.

- DOE Conference on Standards Based Education

Ellen shared information about her participation with the DOE work. Pam shared that she gained clarity about the differences between standards based and performance based education. She felt it was exciting to hear from the students and staff from Alaska. Mary noted that the individuals from Alaska didn't have a clear sense of where the State is in its process around these issues. Also, it was not acknowledged that the scale of implementation Maine is working toward is so much larger in scope. Cathy was disappointed that there was not more team time as she brought a team of 5 teachers. Also, she wished there had been additional models to look at. Sandra wondered about the developmental and social growth of students as the work seems to be based solely on academics. Questions about special education services and meeting student needs were raised. Ellen shared that the academic goals were accommodated through modifications based on students' needs. Kristen also noted the concerns around meeting AYP and wondered how the Chugach School System reconciles the time-based requirements when the RISC model focuses on learning being the constant.

The sense is that the State is not mandating this model. It is one they have found that works.

Ellen shared her experiences from Friday's session. Her system was planning on moving forward as of last Thursday. The application is 8 pages and is due next week. The State is requiring matching funds, and schools will be required to purchase the data management system which costs \$9 per student. The plan is for a two-year implementation phase. Based on these issues, Ellen's system is not proceeding. At this time, it appears that Hallowell and MSAD #43 will complete the application.

The content area work on scoring guides is underway. Cathy is facilitating the process in math. The work will be to tease out the specific elements and levels of learning within the Learning Results. Descriptors for the 3.0 level will be worked on this coming week. The group will be working over the summer and into the early fall. By the end of that period, the documents will articulate the continuum for the levels of learning and will be available for teachers to use as assessment guides. The NECAP standards will be incorporated into the scoring guides. It is Cathy's sense that these will be available to all schools.

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen shared the professional development plans for next year (refer to the hand-out provided). Ellen Holmes will be available to meet with individual districts for about 2 hours on one of three days to discuss their current status relative to PLC's. The dates are: Sept. 18th, October 2nd, and November 6th. Ellen will then develop trainings based on the needs that are identified. Districts can use the 2 hours however they wish (e.g. K-12, divided groups K-5, 6-12, etc.).

Jane Wellman Little will provide a total of 3 days of training during the course of the year. She will work focus on the use of non-fiction literature for teachers in grades K-5, and the time will be split into ½ day sessions. Maureen Montgomery will be providing teachers in grades 6-12 with a similar format.

Owen has been in contact with Marcia Boody around the possibility of her offering two days of follow-up training. One day would be for teachers in grades K-3 (divided into ½ day sessions), and the other would follow the same format and be for teachers in grades 4-6. Owen will continue to work with Marcia on dates for these activities.

Mary Kuskelly from Bucksport is prepared to provide First Aid/CPR training during late August. Based on estimates, 43-45 people are expected. Owen anticipates setting up 3 days of training for 15 participants per day. The cost will be approximately \$60 per person. Owen will talk with Mary to determine 3 days that will work for training. He will get back to curriculum coordinators regarding the dates.

Jim Artesani has committed to 4 days of training next year. Beginning in September, he will spend an hour and a half with each system regarding their current levels of implementation and needs around the behavioral component of RTI. The time can be used in whatever way is most helpful (dividing into grade spans or used K-12). Starting in January/February, he will be offering several sessions for K-5 and 6-12 as to next steps.

Sharon Greaney will be doing 2 different strands of 3 day trainings for staff (whole days) in grades K-5. The focus will be on fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary development.

Maureen Montgomery will be working with grades 6-12 on literacy in the classroom. She will be offering a three-day series of training over the course of the year. If it is determined that there is additional interest, she is open to offering additional sessions.

Ellen Holmes will be working with PREP on math implementation of RTI as well. She will be meeting with systems on either November 19th or 20th. As is noted on the hand-out, Owen mentioned that systems can send teams on one or both days.

The Maine Boys Network will be asked to provide a 2-hour presentation in the fall beginning at 2:30PM.

Owen will provide a final schedule in the fall. The October administration of NECAP's will be noted in the development of the schedule.

A question was raised as to the interest in PREP offering something in the area of standards based education. It was noted that the DOE is planning a symposium in the winter as a follow-up to the work that got underway last week.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of offering some of the staff development sessions during after-school hours. After some conversation, it was determined that most systems would not be likely to participate if sessions were offered during this timeframe.

Owen would like to have systems' "known" dates for the fall as this will help with scheduling meeting times with Ellen Holmes. (If your system has workshop days, parent conference days, etc. scheduled, please let Owen know ASAP.) Once he has this information, Owen will try to put together a schedule and get it out to people by the middle of June.

- State Updates

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

- MCLA Update

Beth noted that there are two new Board members for the Association. Donna Wolfrum from Bangor will be assuming the position for the Penquis Region, and Cathy McCue will be serving from the Western Region. The Board meets again on June 26th and will vote on the at-large position at that time.

- Literacy Cohort

Kristen McCollum reported that there were 21 participants in this year's cohort. Year 2 will be designed to offer a differentiated program with a mentor to assist individuals in focusing on areas of interest. The blog will be used as a tool to determine topics. Kristen will not be leading the literacy cohort next year as she is moving to New York this summer. Meredith O'Reilly will be assuming this position. She is a teacher in Brewer and is a doctoral student at the University of Maine. The summer session is scheduled

for August 13 and 14. Kristen will get a flier to participating districts. Systems can send as many participants on these dates as they are currently funding.

- Virtual High School Update

There is no report at this time.

2. New Business

- RTI info from Yarmouth School Department

Mary shared that she visited the Yarmouth School Department a year ago. Since the last PREP meeting, Mary was in contact with their curriculum and special ed. director. Staff members from Yarmouth are not able to do a presentation for us at this time, but they welcome visitors. Please refer to Yarmouth's web-site for more information as to how they have instituted their RtI system. They are very willing to meet with teams, and Mary found her visit there to be helpful and informative.

Ellen shared that her principal heard a team from Yarmouth present at the MPA Spring Conference. As a follow-up, Ellen and her principal visited Yarmouth for more information. Ellen mentioned Yarmouth's use of a team leader. This person oversees the process including meeting schedules, data collection, etc. They provide for para professionals to go into classrooms for 30 minutes daily. This frees-up the classroom teacher to do Tier I interventions and/or progress monitoring. "Learning Centers" have been established as the location for anyone who is providing support for students. The special ed. teacher and the Title I teacher service all students. These individuals may be paid from a specific fund area, but the services are not limited to students who are labeled as recipients of their services.

Ellen, along with Mary, supports the possibility of PREP members visiting the Yarmouth School Department. Yarmouth also uses a child study team approach, and they have math coaches as well. These positions are funded through local monies as they receive very little in the way of Title monies. There was a conversation about Yarmouth's fluid use of special education staff and para professionals. Kathy Glaude, the principal at the elementary school, is currently writing a book on RtI implementation. Mary will contact Jane Goldman to determine a possible date during the week of August 17 for a visit with a back-up plan of Sept. 17th.

- EMT

Mary also shared what their system uses as a math screening tool. Early Mathematical Thinking (EMT) is a diagnostic tool that is administered in a 1:1 setting. The teachers see the information as helpful, but it is a challenge to find time to administer it. MSAD#22 is investigating what interventions they might use. Pin Point Math (grades 1-7) is a program they are interested in getting more information about. Mary believes it is connected with Everyday Math. A training for EMT will be offered at UNE this summer. Mary believes the materials are provided with the training. She will investigate the possibility of her math interventionist speaking with us.

- Title IIA

Deb shared that there is a new section on the NCLB report on the Title IIA supplemental reports. The state is asking the system to share what it has done to notify parents how they have informed parents as to how they can request information about teacher qualifications. Deb recommends that people cut and paste the information that you have already supplied under another area. Title IV will not be funded after next year.

- LD 1325

The vote did not occur last week. It is scheduled for today. There is a great deal of misunderstanding regarding what the

- Future Book Studies

A number of books were mentioned as possibilities for a second book study for next fall. Some of these include: *The Carrot Principle*, *Good to Great*, Robert Marzano's new book, and Douglas Reeve's new book.

- Middle School Reading List

Pam has asked Jane Wellman Little for a copy of a middle school reading list. When Pam receives it, she will forward it on to all of us.

- Next Meeting Date

The summer meeting for PREP will be on August 17th. It will be held at the Sea Dog in Bangor at 11:30AM. Ellen will call and make arrangements if the trip to Yarmouth cannot be arranged during that week.

Next Year's Meeting Dates

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 14

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 12

May 17

August Agenda

Old Business

- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates
- Literacy Cohort Update
- Virtual high school update

New Business

- Facilitator, recorder, State update person to be selected for 2009-2010 school year
- LD 1325
- RtI Documents
- Delivering on the Promise Chapters 1, 2, and 3 (Donna will facilitate)
- Ideas for a second book study