

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

May 16, 2011

UTC

Attending: Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Owen Maurais, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, Cathy Menard, Joanie Speyer, and Donna Oliver, and Molly Shields.

Presenters: Michael Wittman, Susan McKay, Sharon Greaney, and Maureen Montgomery

Joanie confirmed who will be attending the event on May 23. People will be gathering at the Sea Dog in Bangor at 4:30PM to celebrate Judy's and Ellen's retirements.

PD Opportunities for Next Year

Sharon Greaney reviewed her outline of professional development opportunities in the area of writing for next year. She is pleased to be able to connect writing to the Common Core and to the research around writing workshop. Sharon is very open to suggestions for revising the planned activities. Very favorable comments were made to Sharon regarding her outline being just what is needed.

The first session will be scheduled for early November with sessions to follow in December, mid to late January, and March.

Early Childhood Education

Owen distributed a proposal submitted by Mary Ellin Logue. She is interested in offering regular meetings for those providing early childhood education. She has outlined activities for 9 monthly sessions that will run for approximately 3 hours a month. Owen asked for suggestions around a structure to allow people to meet (i.e. early release time, after school hours, a combination of these two options, etc.). Owen proposed that we discuss this proposal with our districts and then formalize the structure and determine when it will be offered at our meeting in August. Mary Ellin will also be available to meet with interested staff on an afternoon in early June. The organizational meeting will be held at the UTC and will be from 3:30PM to 4:30PM.

There was a question about providing participants with a certificate of attendance and contact hours as districts will likely not be able to provide stipends for those attending.

Professional Development for Writing

Maureen Montgomery reviewed her proposal for writing in content areas for middle and high school teachers (6-12). The sessions will be run as a three part series, and teachers will be developing a collection of writing samples and strategies over the course of the three sessions. The sessions will be held in November, the end of January, and March.

Owen mentioned that Anita Bernhardt and Michele Mailhot are willing to hold another series of workshops next year. Maureen offered to work collaboratively with Owen, Anita, and Michele to address the needs that were discussed during this year's science and math professional development sessions.

Updates from Owen

Owen shared information about "Assistment Project." Janet Fairman brought this program to Owen's attention and shared hand-outs with him. Owen asked people to consider the level of interest in having someone from this program meet with PREP curriculum coordinators in August. He will be sending an e-mail to us later this week for feedback.

Please contact Owen about numbers of participants for the summer professional development sessions by the end of May.

Maine Physical Sciences Partnership Update

Dr. Susan Mckay shared information about the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership Summit which was held over the weekend. There was great participation, and the time was very beneficial. Michael shared the names of the teachers from PREP who attended. These individuals shared that they want to continue to have a voice in how the Partnership moves forward.

With respect to the resource and curriculum materials investigation, there wasn't any one program that did just what was desired. Instead of purchasing a specific product, the curriculum task force recommended that there be a shift with earth science moving more toward the chemistry side of things and a shift in the placement of force and motion. There was a decision to develop approximately 130 days of lessons which will allow for some flexibility at the individual district/school level. The Leadership Team accepted the recommendation of the task force. In order to provide the teachers who will be piloting the new materials with adequate support, all of them will participate in the Summer Institute. Michael mentioned that Dr. Mckay will be working with the administrators who have teachers piloting the new materials.

The collaborative meetings have gone very well this year. There is another session planned for Wednesday at the Orono high school in the library from 5:30- 8:00PM. Supper and a \$50 stipend are provided. It is open to all middle school and high school science and math teachers. Michael Wittman referred to the upcoming sessions as a "listening tour." He mentioned that there is a need to listen to the science group that has been involved in professional development for some time. There are ideas for establishing ways of partnering with this group. One suggestion involves the implementation of a common unit that will be used at the beginning of the school year to allow the 9th grade teachers to get to know the students and to determine what their knowledge bases are.

Teachers in residence- 10 teachers will be spending from 5-8 weeks working with the instructional materials and assessments in preparation for the pilot of the new curriculum.

State Updates

Mary Giard sent a summary of the State updates via e-mail, and she reviewed the information. The Education Committee voted on a measure that will require that “every student will graduate with a standards-based diploma — a diploma that indicates a student has mastered the expectations in each content area, not simply put in a specified amount of time at school.” The Commissioner recently made comments about [LD 1553, An Act To Create a Public Charter School Program in Maine](#). Commissioner Bowen believes that Mainer’s should be provided with options for educating their children that include those provided by charter schools. Graduation rates are also in the news. “The statewide average graduation rate for publicly funded high schools rose by more than two percentage points from 2009 to 2010.”

Mary commented on the workshop she attended with Bea McGarvey and Chuck Schwann. She did not find it particularly helpful or well done. She wonders about the current initiatives that are underway around the State. The energy and organization for the work seems lacking.

There was a brief discussion of the May 2nd MCLA conference held in Freeport. Bea McGarvey’s presentation focused on The Art and Science of Teaching and ways in which this framework can be used to guide supervision and to support teacher improvement. Frustration was also expressed about the difficulty of following Bea’s presentation as there were many instances in which she didn’t follow her own slides.

A conversation was held regarding the participation of a DOE representative at each of our meetings. PREP members will discuss the possibility of having EMCC members attend a portion of our PREP meetings to hear “State Updates” with a representative from the DOE during the June 17th EMCC meeting designed to discuss individual districts’ initiatives around introducing the Common Core.

MCLA

Beth Clifford provided an update on the work of the MCLA Board. Guidelines have been developed for 4 committees, and she reviewed a handout that was provided during the May 2nd MCLA conference. The handout reviews who is currently serving as a member of the Board, the meeting dates held this year, an overview of the committees that are being established, a listing of groups that MCLA is collaborating with, and a request for members to submit nominations for the MCLA’s Curriculum Leader of the Year award. The nominations should be sent to Howie Tuttle at by June 1st.

Donna Oliver shared that she will not be attending PREP meetings during the 2011-2012 school year as the group she will be teaching has significant needs. Being away from the classroom for regular meetings will create a hardship for this class. Molly Shields joined us today from SAD 63 as Donna’s likely replacement. Many thanks to Donna for all she has contributed during her involvement with PREP!

Next Meeting

August 9th in Hampden 10:00-3:00PM (Cathy will facilitate)

August Agenda

Old Business

- Updates from Susan McKay/Michael Wittmann
- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
 - Conversation about having DOE representation at each meeting
- MCLA Updates

New Business

- “Assistments Project”
- Review meeting schedule
- Role assignments
- Book study ideas for the year

Proposed Dates for 2011-2012

September 19th

October 17

November 14th

December 19th

January 23rd

February 27th

March 19th

April 23rd

May 21st

New addresses:

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