

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

November 17, 2008

UTC

Attending: Ellen Almquist, Mary Giard, Debbie Bird, Liz Huggins, Kristen McCollum, Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, and Judy Pusey, Ed Judallah, and Pam Kimball

Ellen welcomed Ed Judallah to our meeting. He shared information about the doctoral program and answered questions. Ed shared the process that the program is undergoing in order to be approved by the University. The doctoral program is designed to have a PK-16 focus with a holistic lens. Theory, data analysis, and research would all be components of the doctoral program. Ed provided a copy of the proposal for the Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction program and a course description of "Curriculum Theory and Practice." The core courses for the program have not yet been decided, and the Board of Trustees will be reviewing the program proposal during their next meeting. Ed will be consulting with the DOE to determine which courses would satisfy the requirements for a curriculum coordinator's certificate.

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen was unable to attend the meeting.

- State Updates

Donna Oliver provided updates from the State. She brought in copies despite the fact that she was not feeling well! Thanks Donna! The group reviewed and discussed the information about the reorganization and referendum votes as well as Informational Letters: 29, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39.

Questions were raised about the NECAP- when would the change be approved, how does this assessment align with the PEI's, how does this change impact AYP status, etc. Concerns were also raised about the timing of the NECAP as many schools already administer the fall MAP's from NWEA.

- Literacy Cohort

Kristen reported that the Literacy Cohort has had 3 meetings to date. The sessions have involved 20 participants and have gone very well. There are a number of individuals who are very engaged and the sharing is helpful. There is a concern, however, about attendance and follow through with "assignments." Kristen shared that there are a few individuals who have missed more than one session and some participants are not implementing strategies within their classrooms as they had been asked to do. After some conversation, the curriculum coordinators agreed and requested that Kristen provide curriculum coordinators with attendance records and share any concerns about

individuals who are not following through so these issues can be addressed at the local level.

- MCLA Update

Beth shared that the Board is meeting on November 18th and will be discussing the process that will be used to post the opening of an At-Large position as Tom Keller will be leaving the State in the near future for a job opportunity.

Also, there will be discussion of the Board inviting a member of MSMA to attend our meetings. Currently, a representative of MSMA attends MPA meetings as well as MADSEC. This possibility would provide another vehicle for having our ideas, questions, concerns, etc. shared with the Commissioner as she meets with MSMA representatives on a monthly basis.

Information that has come from a recent meeting with the Commissioner and MSMA representative, Sandra McArthur includes: Maine will be using the cut-points for the NECAP that have been established by the other New England states; an alignment study between the PEI's and the NECAP's will be completed; a technical manual is in the works to support teachers in this change, and new PEI booklets will be provided to all teachers.

The spring conference planning committee will be meeting on the 18th as well. Ideas are in the early stages at this point, but it looks as though data will be the focus of the day.

- 2008-2009 Work with PLC's

The group reviewed the feedback from the "advanced group's" work with Sue Card. Beyond what was recorded on the forms, a number of participants (curriculum coordinators and the teams they attended with) did not feel that the session was helpful. The decision was made to not hold any future meetings of this group. The feedback from the "new cohort" was very positive, and participants look forward to their next session.

- Other Feedback

Feedback from the other professional development offerings Marcia Boody and Jan Kristo was extremely positive. The group agreed that our teachers/staff members are being offered professional development activities of tremendous quality.

- Virtual High School

Sandra reported that there are currently 15 seats being shared by the 3 participating systems. At a recent meeting, participating representatives questioned whether there would be interest and how feasible it would be to add additional seats to the current contract. Given the current consolidation of systems, there may be more demand for this program. Because the collaborative has a trained teacher, the costs of each class is significantly lower- from \$425 per class to \$150 per 15 seats or \$130 per class for 25 seats. Spring sign-ups are currently underway.

2. New Business

- RTI

There was conversation about the early stages of implementation of RTI. Within the group, there are a variety of activities currently underway. Frustration was expressed about the questions that are unresolved at this point. Some of the questions revolved around the use of progress monitoring, the tools, how to use the data to inform instruction, and how to support teachers in implementing interventions.

There was also conversation about the current direction that PREP is going with respect to RTI. There is a sense that the current model of trying to establish a common framework for all schools is not meeting individual systems' needs. As we continue to work through this process, we agreed that ongoing dialogue will be critical. Given this, we agreed to meet on January 9th at 9:00AM at Bagel Central in Bangor. All are welcome to attend. (Snow date- January 16th)

- Book Study

The group will read chapters 1-3 from Doug Reeves new book *Reframing Teacher Leadership to Improve Your School* for the January meeting. Beth will facilitate the conversation for that session. Pam has volunteered to facilitate the next session which will include chapters 4-6.

Next Agenda (early stages) for December 15th

Old Business

- Updates from Owen
- State Updates
- MCLA Updates
- Status of PLC Work

New Business