

PREP

Penobscot River Educational Partnership

Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

October 19, 2009

UTC

Attending: Ellen Almquist, Debbie Bird, Sandra Cookson, Beth Clifford, Owen Maurais, Pam Kimball, John Mugnai, Mary Giard, and Maureen Montgomery

1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen shared the feedback that has been received regarding recent professional development offerings. (Hand-outs were provided for each of the sessions that were discussed. The CPR-First Aid session was discussed. Having a two-day training might be considered in the future to allow for more practice opportunities. Sharon Greaney has facilitated 2 sessions to date (one for the lower grades and one for the upper). The feedback from these sessions was very positive. This was the first of three full-day trainings (one for each grade level). Ellen Holmes has spent 2 days meeting with systems. The teams who participated on the first day have been actively involved in implementing PLC's. On the second day, the districts were in the early stages of the process. There will be one more day in which Ellen will meet with systems. This will occur in November.

The website is being updated each Friday. If there are any questions about professional development, please refer to the website at www.preppdn.org

The Maine Boys' Network will be scheduled for a session after Christmas.

Owen shared a hand-out that reviewed the offerings that Marcia Boody provided for PREP last year. There was a discussion as to whether or not we should provide additional offerings as a follow-up this year. The sense is that teachers are participating in the sessions with Sharon Greaney and would rather not be out of the classroom for additional sessions.

There was a question about the use of the 3 tier model as oppose to the 4 tier model. Owen noted that the 3 tier model has been used nationally. The State is using the term "pre-referral" process. Ellen commented that she is clear to label CORE at the bottom of the pyramid.

MSAD #41 has requested that they be allowed to join PREP. This is the second district to join PREP this year. MSAD #31 was the first. Owen shared that PREP assessments will be lowered for next year.

- State Updates

Mary shared updates from the State. Please refer to the hand-outs she provided. There was a mention of Infinite Campus and the added piece that systems are having to do around graduation cohorts. Mary also mentioned the information that came out of the Attorney General's office regarding

Mary also mentioned the meeting that Heidi McGinley and Ellen Holmes recently attended around pre-referral and RtI. Ellen's sense is that the DOE is planning to slow the process down to assist systems in moving forward in a meaningful way. There will be a number of trainings done in the various regions to support the effort. There are also thoughts about changing the terminology and going back to the name of "RtI."

Questions were raised about the deadline for implementation of RtI. There is ongoing discussion about the 2010 date vs. the 2012 deadline. Clarity needs to come from the DOE regarding the facets of RtI and implementation dates. There was a question raised about the syllabus work and Maine Course Pathways. Ellen has had conversation with Jana Boody who said that the process was moving forward. Ellen recently heard during a DEEP meeting that this process was optional. She also has heard that there is a new cohort that is getting started on the Maine Course Pathways that will involve 8 systems. Concern was mentioned about the lack of feedback that systems are getting from EPIC. There seems to have been very little to date.

- MCLA Update

MCLA Update- Beth noted that the Fall Conference is on November 9th and 10th and registrations are solid. The Board will continue its discussion regarding the possibility of MCLA hiring an executive secretary. The discussion rooms (on-line) are in the process of being developed. The topics will initially include:

- * RTI
- * Curriculum issues, materials
- * Standards-based Education including RISC
- * Graduation requirements from the Diploma Partnership meetings

- Literacy Cohort

Participants in the Penobscot River Educational Partnership Literacy Cohort had their first meeting of the year on September 28th. On the heels of exposure to a wide variety of literacy strategies during the 2008-09 cohort, participants are forming themselves into small groups which will spend the 2009-10 cohort building proficiency with a more focused set of literacy strategies.

The 2009-10 cohort will culminate in the production of a series of literacy strategy workshops, envisioned and developed by cohort participants. These workshops are intended to offer a foundation for cohort participants to deliver building-wide and,

potentially, district-wide coaching in their sending districts. The delivery of these workshops—and appropriate follow-up--will be the focus on the 2010-2011 cohort.

- Virtual High School Update

The group hasn't met since last spring. It is comprised of representatives from Union 87, Old Town, and Hampden. Interest has been expressed by 2 other districts to participate. A meeting will be convened later this year to bring any interested systems on board.

- Other

Open education resources- Matt Cyr, principal in Old Town, has offered to serve as a representative for the area. The hope is to make resources more available to PREP schools.

2. New Business

- RtI documents

Deb shared notebooks that have been developed around literacy interventions. They contain recommended strategies for interventions, benchmarks for literacy skills such as oral reading fluency, writing skills, and others, as well as forms to document the intervention process.

John shared that his system is using Union #98's materials while they are in the process of developing their own.

Mary shared that her system is having difficulty with finding the person-power to meet all of the various needs. There has been tension around trying to utilize all available people within a school.

There was conversation around the National Standards. It was noted that feedback can be submitted on the survey on-line through October 21st. There were also questions raised about the implications of this work on the NECAP GLE's.

- Book Study- Deb will facilitate a discussion of the first 3 chapters of *Choice Words* during our next meeting on November 16th.

- NWEA

Sandra had requested feedback from systems using NWEA MAP's at the high school level. She heard from a number of them including: Portland, South Portland, Boothbay, Auburn, a number of systems up north, SAD 52, Bucksport, Waldoboro along with others. Sandra asked a number of questions about the use of the MAP's and how the teachers perceive the usefulness of the data that is obtained. Some of the questions are as follows:

- How long have the assessments been used? From 2 to 9 years
- At which grade levels- Grades 9 and 10 (2 through 8 in many schools as well)

- What tests are administered? End of course assessments in math in the spring as well as literacy and math assessments
- What data reports are used? Most mentioned class by RIT reports. Many are and doing professional development around it.
- Do you use the “literacy ladders?” This information is not being readily used.
- Correlation between the SAT and PSAT- information for this was not available

Ellen shared that her system has been focusing on the guideline that notes that once a student has reached a specific RIT score, the MAP’s becomes less helpful. Bucksport has students continue taking MAP’s until they reach the specified score. Teachers look at students at or below the 67%. These are the students who are considered to not be meeting standards.

There was a question about the use of the goal-setting activity with students. Some systems are utilizing this. There was also discussion about various aspects of MAP’s, their uses, and whether there is a predictive correlate between SAT and PSAT, and the dilemma of assessing students with NWEA’s in the fall with the transition to NECAP’s and the addition of these assessments.

Owen will ask Walt Harris to investigate the question, “Are there studies that indicate a correlation between NWEA (MAP’s) and the SAT’s and PSAT’s?”

Maureen will send us a link that has literacy probes for students at the high school level.

If we have documents we wish to share with each other, Owen will post attachments to the PREP website. www.preppdn.org Please record your name and system with any document that is submitted. These will be found under the “Minutes” section.

Owen mentioned that there is the capability of connecting with others via the polycom. If there are people we would like to have conversations with, we could meet at the University and connect with them through technology.

- Next Meeting Date

We will meet at 10:00AM on November 16th.

This Year’s Meeting Dates

December 14 (Meeting will be at Reed’s Brook Middle School)

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 12

May 17

November Agenda

Old Business

- Updates from Owen

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

New Business

- Discussion of *Choice Words*- Chapters 1-3 (Deb will facilitate)
- Follow-up from the MCLA Fall Conference