

# PREP

## Penobscot River Educational Partnership

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### Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

September 21, 2009

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

Wilson Museum in Castine- Alice and Harry shared information about an exhibit that will be arriving in November on the life of Abraham Lincoln. The traveling kiosk and a number of kits will be on loan from the Lincoln Museum in Chicago. The exhibit contains exact replicas of artifacts from Lincoln's life and the time period. There will be an emphasis on what life was like in that day: issues around emancipation, going off to war, clothing, etc. The exhibit, *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* runs from Nov 2-24<sup>th</sup>. Dates for visitations can be reserved by contacting the museum. Both Harry and Alice are eager to work with teachers and schools to develop presentations that will meet the desired goals. The visitations are geared toward grades 5-8.

#### 1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

Owen shared the professional development plans for this year (refer to the hand-out provided). For any future changes, we will be notified by e-mail, and we can always refer to PREP's website at [www.PREPPDN.org](http://www.PREPPDN.org) There was a question about the teacher preparation committee. Pam Kimball shared some of the agenda items that are addressed include field experience placements, professional development opportunities as well as others.

Math pre-referral initiative- Concern was expressed about being able to release staff at the K-12 level at the same time. As a result, each session will run twice. Owen asked for feedback the configuration of the math pre-referral sessions. The sense is that it would be helpful to divide the levels from K-5 and 6-12. The question was raised about the focus of the training. The intent of the training is to develop a leadership team within the district. There was concern about the potential conflict for principals who will be attending the MPA conference. The dates will be changed from 11/19 and 11/20, and Owen will get back to us with the dates. It was agreed that the following items should be addressed:

- The overview of RtI should be a brief review
- What is research-based and how do you find it?
- Recommendations for implementing Math RtI at the designated level
- A description of what RtI looks like at each level
- Using curriculum-based measurement
- Planning sessions for teams to determine future needs

Systems can send 5 people to each session with Sharon Greaney and Maureen McGovern.

Jane Wellman Little is willing to work with staff on nonfiction literature- “Unlocking academic and nonacademic vocabulary” focused on grades K-5

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

These sessions will be from 8:00AM- 11:00AM and noon to 3:00PM. Systems can send up to 5 participants to each session.

The Maine Boys Network- There was a conversation regarding when a program might be offered. After some discussion, the decision was made to have a first session that would be intended for administrators, curriculum coordinators, and special education directors. The initial session will be held from 3:30PM-6:30PM. The meeting will be geared toward considerations of next steps for staff development for teachers.

At October’s meeting, we will discuss the possibility of having follow-up sessions to the work that Marcia Booty did with teachers last year as she is unable to continue this year.

- Science Initiative-

Ed Lindsey and Mark O’Claire provided an update regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> grade science collaborative. There are 6 or 7 schools currently participating. Schools have generally varied a great deal in terms of what has been offered for science at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The teachers participating in the collaborative felt it was important to clarify the scope of the course. Curriculum topic studies were a focus last year, the teachers shared curricula, and they discussed classroom experiences, etc. At the end of the year, the group decided that there should be a very clear focus for the work ahead. They decided to develop a curriculum “unit of instruction” that could be taught, assessed, and reviewed collaboratively. The group contacted Susan McKay at the Center for Science and Math Research. The teachers have gotten important support in the form of two grad students working part time, some funds for honoraria, food, transportation, etc. as well as the commitment for some flexibility around the use of funds (from NSF). The unit will be piloted in February and the data will need to be shared with the Center so it can be included in its report due to NSF.

The group will need help from the Center to develop pre-unit assessments as well as formative and summative assessments. The grad students will play a significant role in looking at the results to determine the levels of learning and whether the results are significant. The findings will need to meet the rigorous demands of the educational research community. The teachers’ work is based on *Ready, Set, Science*, and the language of science is a significant part of the work. The students’ abilities to articulate the results of their work may also be an area of focus for the study. The teachers’ meeting schedules will include evening and day meetings and will be held more often than once a month. Owen asked Ed and Mark to develop a schedule that would include

requested dates for release time. Owen will provide curriculum coordinators with the dates in order to share these requests with superintendents.

- State Updates

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

- MCLA Update

MCLA Update- Beth Clifford noted several issues that the Board will be discussing at its meeting next Friday. These included the possibility of MCLA hosting chat rooms as well as the possibility of hiring an executive secretary.

RtI will be the focus of the first day of the Fall Conference (Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>). Barbara Moody, the RtI Specialist at the DOE will be presenting in the morning. The following is a description of the session that Beth received after the EMCC meeting.

“This session will give an overview of the work that has been done at the State level to prepare for state-wide implementation of RTI systems. In addition, there will be an outline of extension technical assistance that will be occurring within the next few months that will help schools document the work that they are doing to demonstrate compliance. Included in the presentation will be a description of how RTI systems fit in with other major Department initiatives such as Standards-Based Education, Multiple Pathways, and the Syllabus review.”

Commissioner Gendron will share updates from the State and respond to questions. After lunch, there will be a panel presentation from representatives of systems or professional organizations who are currently implementing or supporting the implementation of RtI in some respect.

Robert Marzano is presenting on Day 2 (Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>). The global focus will be on standards-based education with an eye toward the RISC work that is occurring across the State, grading and the implications of standards, as well as other related issues. Beth welcomes any feedback or suggestions that she can pass along to other members of the conference planning committee.

- Literacy Cohort

Ken Martin and Meredith O'Reilly will be working with the cohorts next week. The first meeting will be Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Maureen Montgomery will serve as a liaison between Ken, Meredith, and PREP.

- Virtual High School Update

Owen shared that a grad student has interest in developing the port-a-portal website to get on-line concepts available to students who have diverse needs. Owen anticipates having representatives share the progress with PREP at an upcoming meeting.

Cathy Menard and Ellen Almquist shared that their districts are interested in participating in Virtual High School. It is recommended that each system have its own site coordinator. Owen will organize an informational meeting for all interested.

## 2. New Business

- Roles for PREP for 2009-2010

Muareen Montgomery will facilitate for this year.

Beth Clifford will take minutes.

Mary Giard will provide us with updates.

Many thanks to Ellen for the guidance she provided as facilitator during the past couple of years. Also, thanks to Donna for keeping us up-to-date with all that has been going on at the Department.

- LD 1325

There was conversation about LD 1325's current status. Cathy shared that the group is reconvening in January. At that time, there will be people on the committee who will be empowered to make decisions.

- Update on the Work to Develop a PDS at MSAD 22

Mary Giard shared the activities that are occurring around comprehension. Pam noted that this collaboration with the University is a first with respect to developing a PDS. This experience will certainly guide the direction of the program in the future. The intent of the work is to develop a true partnership. One of the intended benefits is to have University students be viewed as colleagues by the time they are doing their student teaching. Another is to support University faculty in doing research.

- Delivering on the Promise- Donna asked members to consider the text in relation to what is currently occurring in our systems. This was the launching point to a great discussion.

- New Book Study- There were a couple of recommendations for our next book study. Owen will obtain *Choice Words* for those who do not have it.

- The Impact of Consolidation on Music Education- Pam asked for information as to how school music programs are being impacted by the consolidation process. Comments were made about the likelihood of eliminating positions with programs being housed in more central locations. Comments were also made about the value of LD1325 as it added importance to the VPA as it could be counted as one of the five content areas in which students would have to demonstrate attainment of the standards.

- NECAP-

The change in requirements with respect to not putting resources on the walls that would give students an unfair advantage was discussed.

- GT rules Chapter 104-

The question was raised as to whether the waiver from the State regarding these rules is still in place. The general sense is that the State is maintaining status quo for now.

- Question about VPA-

A question was asked about how systems are addressing VPA. At this time, systems are generally addressing VPA curricula through music and art classes.

- Next Meeting Date

We will meet at 10:00AM on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### This Year's Meeting Dates

November 16

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

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 12

May 17

### October Agenda

#### Old Business

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

#### New Business

- RtI Documents
- Discussion of *Choice Words*- who will facilitate and what is the reading assignment?