

# PREP

## Penobscot River Educational Partnership

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### Curriculum Coordinators' Meeting

September 15, 2008

Reed's Brooke Middle School

Attending: Ellen Almquist, Mary Giard, Debbie Bird, Donna Oliver, Liz Huggins, Christine McCollum, Pam Kimball, Owen Mauris, Sandra Cooksen, Beth Clifford, and Judy Pusey

Ed Lindsey from Old Town High School and Jeff Owen from Orono High School shared the collaborative work they've been engaged in with respect to aligning 9<sup>th</sup> grade Earth and Physical Science with the Parameters for Essential Instruction. They view this as a key opportunity to identify what the essential questions are as the focus of the course has shifted with the revision of the MLR. (A hand-out was provided.)

Ed and Jeff have contacted area PREP high school science teachers as well as others including Howland and Ellsworth. The goal for the regional collaborative is to "improve practice by employing standards documents, identifying effective models, and by critically evaluation classroom implementation." PREP Curriculum Coordinators are encouraged to share this information with superintendents and principals to support this initiative as it gets off the ground. Also, Curriculum Coordinators are asked to pass this information along to teachers who are responsible for teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade Earth and Physical Science. There will be a half day session on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the UTC beginning at noon with lunch.

The group welcomed Christine McCollum who is the new Assistant Director of Curriculum for MSAD #22.

#### 1. Old Business

- Updates from Owen

2009 PREP Professional Development Initiatives- Owen shared a revised listing of PREP initiatives for the coming school year. PREP districts will be assessed an additional \$1,000 for the pre-referral sessions. Districts who are not part of PREP will pay an additional \$1,500.

A question arose around the pre-referral process. Is it a district-wide plan, a school-level plan.... Owen shared that the process is the same K-12. Depending on the grade level/span, the assessment/progress monitoring tools will/may differ. The first level of implementation is critical in determining what interventions are needed for the % of students will need to have access to the RTI process. If after receiving two interventions, a student does not make progress, the student will take a processing test and can then receive special education services.

Ellen shared a rubric that assists schools in evaluating a reading intervention program from Richard Allington's new book, *What Really Matters in Response to Intervention: Research-based Designs*. Ellen noted that Tier 2 interventions have to be executed by highly trained professionals (certified teachers).

Owen encourages districts to send individuals to this year's training who attended the Summer Institute. This will support districts in developing cohorts that are knowledgeable about this process.

- State Updates

Donna provided hand-outs regarding updates from the State's website.

- MCLA Update

Beth reminded the group that the Fall Conference is on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a question about getting some kind of confirmation that the registration form and payment had been received. Beth will address this at Thursday's Board Meeting. Also, the "Stakeholder's Meetings" were discussed. More information should be forthcoming on the list-serve regarding the wording of the proposed regulations for high school graduation and as to when the public hearings will be held. Sandra forwarded a copy of the "Graduation Requirements Matrix" that she received from Tom Keller on the list-serve. Beth will request that Ellen, Liz, Mary and herself be added as members of the MCLA list-serve.

- Literacy Cohort

Christine reported that 20 people from 4 districts have signed up as participants. The first meeting will take place at the UTC on September 24<sup>th</sup>. This course will be eligible for 2 graduate credits or contact hours that will be awarded by PREP.

- Next Steps with High School Principals

This item was tabled as there are too many items up in the air with respect to graduation requirements. It can be revisited once the guidelines/process are clarified.

- 2008-2009 Work with PLC's

Ellen Holmes has been contacted and agreed to develop a survey to disseminate to participants through curriculum coordinators. The dates for Ellen to meet with K-5 people are November 18<sup>th</sup>, January 27<sup>th</sup> with February 3<sup>rd</sup> as a snow date, and April 14<sup>th</sup>. Sue Card's first sessions are on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> are all set. The location for October 7<sup>th</sup> is at the Herbert Sargent Community Center in Old Town.

## 2. New Business

- Book Study

The group decided to read Doug Reeves new book *Reframing Teacher Leadership to Improve Your School*. Mary forwarded the publication information to Owen, and he will order the books, and the plan is to have them to review at the next meeting. At

that time, the group will divide the book into sections, and individuals will volunteer to facilitate these.

- Creating a Common Resources List

Please send Debbie additions to the “Common Resources List,” and she will update it for the group regularly.

- Doctoral Program in Curriculum Development

Ed Jadallah will attend our October meeting to share information about this new program at the University.

- Effective Practices Conference

Christine made us aware of the “Effective Practices Conference” that is being held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. It is being offered by the Maine Writing Project and the Southern Maine Writing Project. The cost is approximately \$90.

- Student Teachers

Pam asks people to encourage middle school teachers to accept student teachers for the spring semester.

#### Next Agenda

##### Old Business

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

##### New Business

- Ed Jadallah
- Book Study
- MCLA Conference