

Minutes of PREP Executive Officers Meeting
February 25, 2009
Individuals Present:

David Walker, Al Smith, Emil Genest, Rick Lyons, Jim Boothby, Ellen Almquist,
Anne Pooler, Terry Despres, Owen Maurais

I. Acceptance of the Minutes of November 17, 2008

Motion by Jim Boothby, Seconded by Emil Genest to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008. Vote 6-0.

II. Review of Current PREP Initiatives

Owen Maurais reviewed the activities which have been ongoing during the 2008-09 school year. He made connections to how these activities would continue to develop during the 2009-10 school year. Ellen Almquist reported on how staff development offerings have supported school units during this school year and which would be continued into the future.

Areas reported on included:

- Staff development
- Teacher preparation
- Pre-referral
- Guidance
- Physical Sciences
- Virtual High School
- Special Education Related Services
- Adult Education

III. New Initiatives

Discussion continued on the development of activities to support school board members in their functioning as board members. There was considerable discussion focusing on when to provide training and the specific components that would be most valuable. It was decided that a smaller group would identify and recommend initial offerings beginning in the fall of 2009. Rick Lyons, Jim Boothby and Owen Maurais will begin this planning. If any school units have school board members who would be interested in taking part in the planning, they would be welcomed. Superintendents with interested board members should contact Owen Maurais with the information.

Discussion then turned to the development of group purchasing opportunities. A listing of potential opportunities had been shared as part of planning for this meeting. There was agreement that opportunities are available and that the partnership should avail itself of them. The Best Bid process was discussed as an opportunity of group

purchasing. Terry Despres provided an overview of the the process which has been successfully implemented in several regions within the State of Maine. Significant savings have been achieved by school units involved with this initiative. SAD #22 offered to pilot the process for the next school year. Their central office staff will be trained and each participating school unit will also have one member trained in the process. Implementation will begin in the spring of 2009. SAD #22 will implement the process as a trial for one year at no cost to participating districts. After that length of time, assessments for involvement will be discussed.

IV. PREP Assessments for 2009-10

Owen Maurais distributed the proposed assessments for the 2009-10 school year. The discussion of the assessments continued into the next agenda item.

V. Further development of the partnership and the potential of collaboratives and cooperatives.

Terry Despres reported on the discussion at the legislative level of developing educational cooperatives within regions of the state. While still being developed, the legislation identifies that member districts choose what services they would purchase from the cooperative and pay only for those they use. Each cooperative would appoint an Executive Director. Terry indicated that discussion on the issue of cooperatives would probably occur in mid March, with a legislative document being finalized in early March.

Considerable discussion they turned to how PREP is currently funded. Currently, school units pay a yearly fee that covers the functioning of the partnership. (Units pay an addition small fee for PREP wide staff development offerings).

Under discussion was the idea of units paying a smaller administrative fee and then paying for each activity school units decided to be involved with. This format would limit the initial amount of financial outlay to support the partnership and would then fund activities on a pay as used basis. Discussed was the potential that this format would have in bringing in new members.

Also discussed was the need for a certain amount of funding to ensure the continued operation of the partnership and how this would interact with the pay as you use format.

At the end of the meeting, there was no consensus achieved on the funding process for PREP for the 2009-10 school year. David Walker and Al Smith indicated that they would contact Dan Lee and Betsy Webb and invite them to a meeting to be scheduled with PREP Executive Officers in late March. This meeting would further discuss PREP and the potential involvement of their districts. It was proposed that this meeting would only involve PREP Executive Officers as well as Dan Lee and Betsy

Webb. Emil Genest, Chairperson of the PREP Executive Officers would arrange for the logistics of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Owen P. Maurais

Executive Director