

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2014 Luncheon

Downtown District Office

Members

Parents: Angie Berg, Maria Eastman, Jean Feia/Steever, Bethann Humphrey, Cindy Tuomala, Alisa VanDyke, Jennifer Verdugo

District: Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce, Angie Lauderbaugh, Nancy Lundt, Dr. James Hess

District Title I Services

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers of children from low-income families, in order to assist schools in ensuring that all children meet challenging academic standards.

Districts or schools accepting Title I funds are required to provide all children with fair, equitable and significant educational opportunities in order to obtain a high-quality education and to reach--at a minimum--proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments. Title I programs utilize highly qualified staff who implement instructional strategies based on scientifically based research and which are supported by organized and effective parental involvement.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has requested a one-time waiver from the Federal Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.

Title I Monitor January 2015

Central Elementary was monitored four years ago. This year, J.W. Smith and Lincoln elementary schools along with two non-public (St. Philip's and St. Mark's) will receive monitoring on Title I and Title II.

A representative from the MDE will hold staff and parent interviews, tour schools, review financial records and inventory on equipment. Time and effort for staff

along with supporting documentation will be reviewed, as well. Parents were briefed on what types of questions they may be asked if interviewed.

The World's Best Workforce (WBWF) is a viable goal structure that is also looked at, as many elements are associated to Title funding and services. WBWF is part of the MN Waiver from ESEA/NCLB.

McKinney Vento

With transitional students the main focus is to remove barriers such as transportation, clothing, or school supplies.

The group watched "ReMoved," a video about the trials of transitional children and their foster families. Bemidji Area Schools and McKinney Vento have a para-professional (Nancy Lundt) that works with transitional students at Evergreen Youth and Family Services. Here students, as young as 7 years to as old as 17 years, are transitional between foster homes or coming from treatment facilities.

To establish the academic level of incoming Evergreen students, the STAR Reading and Math assessment is administered. Many of these students have EBD (Emotional Behavior Disorders); are oppositional; defiant; or easily shut down when encouraged to achieve.

Children and youth who experience homelessness have the right to receive a free, appropriate public education ensured by the McKinney-Vento Act which is a federally funded grant provided through a state agency.

The "Open Your Heart" grant, the Super * motel, and the Village of Hope are all very helpful in keeping up with the trend this year - very fast transitions. This is a big challenge for the Transportation Department to bus students. The district Homeless Social Worker, Angie Lauderbaugh, maintains good communication with the Transportation Director (Greg Liedl).