

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2017 – J.W. Smith Elementary

Members

Parents: Angie Berg, Becky Bentfield, Twila Bolte, Sondra Gudmanson, Robin Harris, Berit Rosenberg, Alisa VanDyke, Jennifer Verdugo

District: Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce

J.W. Smith Elementary Education and Title I Services

Michele Green, Title I Teacher, explained the Minnesota Reading Corps program. This is a statewide initiative to help every Minnesota child become a successful reader by the end of 3rd grade. The program places AmeriCorps members as literacy tutors in sites across Minnesota to implement a researched-based early literacy effort to help struggling readers. The Minnesota Reading Corps strategies are designed for both preschool-aged children and K–3rd grade students. There are two MN Reading Corps representatives working at J.W. Smith: Rachel Hanford and Jessica Alexander. The staff and families are pleased with the results through this program.

Principal Welte explained changes in the location of the Title I room, due to an additional grade 3 classroom this year. Also, Reading Recovery has expanded to the Summer Program.

Reading Recovery's Audra Allen indicates students are exposed to "How To" read and Leveled Literacy Instruction.

Math Intervention seems to be having a positive impact. Students study with Number Worlds and OLPA results show positive growth.

Several family engagement events take place through the year:

- Family Read-In Day fostered very good parent participation with about 200 parents attending the Cookies & Read-In. Kindergarten and first grade students built gingerbread houses and had reading time.
- Dr. Seuss Reading and Parent Involvement will be the last week in April.
- Sonia Wadena, Director of Indian Education, will partner with J.W. Smith for a reading day or evening.

District Information

Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum & Administrative Services, discussed the Bemidji After-School Learning program on Mondays and Wednesdays. This is funded through Youth Targeted Services and extends into summer. The Summer Program will run June 12 – July 20 on Monday through Thursday at Bemidji Middle School.

When the Gene Dillon 4-5 school is in place, transportation for K-3 elementary students will be discussed with parents, as this is a concern.

Meeting Times

- March ~~31~~ 29: District Office Board Room (McKinney Vento)
- April 21: Lincoln Elementary
- May 5: District Office Board Room (Kindergarten Packets)
- Late May: Solway Elementary