

# Bemidji Area Schools - Title I Parent Advisory Council

## **Meeting Minutes**

**May 27, 2014**

**District Office**

### **Members:**

*Parents:* Maria Eastman, Jean Feia/Steever, Bethann Humphrey, Shirley Klish, Linda Newby, Alisa VanDyke, Jennifer Verdugo; *District:* Mary Bjerke, Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce

### **Solway Elementary Education and Title I Services**

Solway Elementary is a Minnesota Celebration School. The Celebration school designation is part of Minnesota's federal accountability system that replaces No Child Left Behind. Under Minnesota's program, schools are assigned a Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR) based on students' proficiency and growth, as well as a school's progress towards reducing achievement gaps and increasing graduation rates. The state's Title I schools—those serving racially and ethnically diverse student populations with high levels of poverty—qualify for designations if they are top performers.

Celebration-eligible schools are the 25 percent of schools directly below those designated as Reward schools (the top 15 percent of Title I schools). These schools are then able to apply for Celebration status by documenting what efforts they are using to increase student achievement. MDE selects schools based on their ability to effectively document best practices that have led to student success to receive the Celebration school recognition. Celebration-eligible schools are identified annually.

Solway Elementary is accomplishing a number of noteworthy successes. Preliminary results show Solway achieving 90% proficiency on the MCA-III Science tests. The summer reading program, S. P. A. R. K. S. is very beneficial to students. They have the opportunity to “shop” for books, at their level, they are interested in reading. Books they have chosen are sent to their homes in the summer to encourage continued reading while school is not in session.

## **Parent Involvement Plan Finalization and Parent Signature**

Title I staff across the District sent electronic revisions for the Parent Involvement Plan in the spring. Parents and Title I staff at the May 2013 meeting provided additional input on the Plan. The document will be edited, accordingly, and one of the parents will sign it upon completion.