



# Title I Teacher Meeting

Thursday, October 31, 2013  
District Board Room

**Members Present:** Audra Allen, Michelle Chase, Vince Collyard, Kathy Edmonds, Michele Green, Maureen Holmstrom, Kim Kusler, Jason Luksik, Amanda Mix, Sarah Nielson, Kathy Palm, Casey Reiersen, Liana Schaefer

## Minutes:

1. We started the meeting at 2:00 with members sharing an idea to improve student reading or math achievement, increase growth, or close achievement gaps. We heard the following ideas:
  - a. Rhymes & Times – Central shared their 5<sup>th</sup> grade success with this curriculum. Teachers used it 30 minutes per day for three weeks and saw great gains in students' multiplication facts. They also used it in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with less success. Central is also using Greg Tang's resources and Math Facts in a Flash.
  - b. ixl – Casey shared this online tool, which is set up like the MCA Math test for grades 2-5. It works well to prepare students for the MCA math test and work on specific standards. It also works well for special ed. students.
  - c. Rhymes & Times – Audra shared that J. W. Smith is also finding success with Rhymes and Times, ixl, and Greg Tang's math resources.
  - d. RtI Conference – Michele shared that she attended the state RtI conference. She learned that vocabulary (the words students struggle with when they read) is important for intermediate students. For first graders letter sounds and sound boxes (Great Leaps) work well. The MN Reading Corps scores are increasing with another intervention.
  - e. Read Live – Sarah shared this online version of Read Naturally. It costs \$600 for 30 licenses and offers nonfiction stories. The cold timing works better.
  - f. Kim shared that we need to refocus on math with a comprehensive math intervention. We should provide good core instruction and differentiate math and reading with small groups. In MAP Reading we see the need to focus on informational text, DesCartes, and Common core. We address these in the Student Growth Teams, but it would be helpful to have Grade Level meetings.
  - g. Jason shared Lincoln's work with Essential Learning Outcomes. Kyle from NWSC is working with them to look at the math benchmarks by grade level, then they will focus on reading.
  - h. Guided Math – Lincoln shared that some of their teachers are working on Number Sense routines during 10-15 minutes of core math time. They are also differentiating with math boxes.
2. Kathy told school teams to select a lead teacher or two to oversee the continuous improvement process at each school. They also need to select School Improvement



Team members that include special education and Indian ed. staff. Continuous Improvement schools also need to mail the Parent Letter and all of them have completed this.

3. We discussed what types of professional development activities schools want to do with the continuous improvement 20% set aside. (Central \$47,950; J. W. Smith \$103,950; Lincoln \$91,328). This can include: training, after-school stipends, substitutes, travel, and coaches.
4. On November 21, Tom Muchlinski (former MDE math content specialist) is coming to Bemidji. He will meet with the principals that morning. Schools were asked if they are interested in your teams meeting with him and if so, what would they like him to do? Teams indicated an interest in meeting with Tom to discuss curriculum ideas and effective interventions. Kathy will schedule this at the district office.
5. We discussed writing the Continuous Improvement Plan. Teams should consider what they already have in place with your Schoolwide Plan. Liana shared her experience writing a Continuous Improvement Plan for her graduate class, and that was helpful.
6. Kathy shared the District Growth Summary, which shows how each school compares to the State by grade and sub group. We show more growth with students receiving free and reduced lunch. Kathy also shared the Fall 2013 NWEA MAP results. Second grade students were low compared to the norm group, but the higher grades looked strong.
7. MDE will provide a webinar on Continuous Improvement Thursday, November 7, at 10:00, and schools are welcome to attend that.
8. The meeting adjourned at 3:30.