



# Title I Teacher Meeting

**1:30 – 3:30, Thursday, September 4, 2014**

**District Board Room**

**Staff Attending:** Audra Allen, Michelle Chase, Lori Clafton, Vince Collyard, Michele Green, Maureen Holmstrom, Denise Johnson, Sarah Nielsen, Kathy Palm, Heather Sande, Liana Schaefer, Vonnie VanDyke

## **Minutes:**

1. The Title I staff discussed the 2014-2015 Title application, which was submitted Thursday, August 28, 2014. Just in case, 20% of the Central, J. W. Smith, and Lincoln Title I budgets was set aside for Continuous Improvement. Kathy called John Moore, and he informed her that she should carry over the money not spent last year for Continuous Improvement (\$130,000) into the regular Title I school budgets. He also said there is more flexibility in the Continuous Improvement budgets than professional development. He said we can hire staff to work in areas of concern, which is good news for Bemidji since we had to cut staff because of the set aside. He said we need to make sure we spend our set aside budgets to avoid losing money next year. We will know September 29 when the Multiple Measurement Ratings are released whether any Bemidji Title I schools are on Continuous Improvement. We are also waiting for MDE to provide the final Title I allocations, which should be the end of October.
2. Kathy presented the most recent test data to the staff for them to use for their Needs Assessments when they update their Schoolwide Plans. The 2014 AYP Results are embargoed until October 1, 2014, but Central, J. W. Smith, and Lincoln did not make AYP. The 2014 MCA Reading, Math & Science results were very positive, and schools showed excellent improvement over 2013. Central's reading proficiency declined, but their math showed excellent improvement.

Kathy also shared the changes in testing for this year. All math, reading, and science MCAs will be online. She also explained the College and Career Ready tests that grades 8, 10, and 11 will take this year. Finally, Kathy shared the 2014-2015 Test Dates.

3. The group discussed plans in case we have schools on Continuous Improvement. We talked about ways to use the set aside money, which should be used by the end of the school year. We discussed what types of professional development their schools need this year. Some ideas include:
  - Math standards alignment with Jake Seuntjens
  - Essential Learner Outcomes training similar to what Lincoln is doing
  - Training on NWEA MAP and how to best use that data
  - Training on Houghton Mifflin's Math Expressions
  - ThinkCentral digital training



- AIMSweb progress monitoring
- Soar to Success, a digital resource available in Math Expressions
- Lori Clifton is a Read Naturally trainer and can provide that training

Other ways teachers would like to use the set aside money is to purchase the online curriculum for Read Naturally, which costs \$1,200 per school. Kathy also shared information about the Rural & Low Income Grant application and asked for ideas for closing Achievement Gaps. One suggestion was to ask retired teachers to provide interventions and MCA prep.

4. Kathy reminded the group that Bemidji's Title I could be monitored this year. Kathy shared a document from Minneapolis Schools that details the compliance requirements for Schoolwide programs. Everyone needs to make sure they document the following.
  - Schoolwide Compliance Documentation
  - Keep sign-in sheets for all meetings and parent activities
  - Document parent compacts and parent communication
5. We further discussed training needs. Kim Kusler is willing to provide "refresher" this fall on the Basic Reading Inventory assessment, the QPS, and the PAST. The MAASFEP conference is October 2-3 in the Cities. Other training needs include: Viewpoint, PALS, Number Worlds, Math Expressions.
6. We set the next Title I staff meeting for Tuesday, September 30 at 7:35 a.m. at the district office.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.