

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2015
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Members Present: Vince Beyl, Erin Curran, Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Karie Hougard, Carol L. Johnson, Maura Johnson, Amanda Mix, Kathy Palm, Ken Schreiber, Brian Stefanich, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena, Janine Wahl

Guests: Toni Cox, Kyle McMartin

Minutes:

1. The meeting started at 7:00 a.m. with members and guests introducing themselves.
2. Vince Beyl, Indian Education Coordinator, explained the new Indian Education funding provided by the State. Prior to this funding, Bemidji was one of 28 districts that received funding through a competitive grant process. Now the funding requires an application, but more districts are able to receive funds to support American Indian students. Bemidji received \$300,000+ additional funding. With these new funds we are able to restore an Ojibwe language teacher at the Bemidji High School and provide more math and reading tutors and home-school liaisons. For the first time, Indian Education funding will also support early childhood programming and encourage more American Indian children to attend preschool.
3. Kathy Palm showed the group where the World's Best Workforce website is located on the district website (<http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/curriculum/worlds-best-workforce/>). Many resources are located at this site including: the WBWF Report and Summary, district and school goals, test results, district budget, and committee minutes. Our committee discussed the 2014-2015 WBWF Report at our last meeting, and this time we discussed the 2014-2015 World's Best Workforce Summary, which was submitted to MDE after it was approved by the Bemidji School Board November 16, 2015.

The summary includes the five WBWF goals: 1) All students ready for Kindergarten, 2) All students in third grade achieving grade-level literacy, 3) Close the achievement gaps among all groups, 4) All students career-and college-ready by graduation, and 5) All students graduate. Along with these goals are details about the goal results, multiple test data, district strategies, student achievement plans, and highly qualified teachers. We noted that 55.3% of Bemidji teachers hold Master's degrees, and 99.7% are highly qualified. Seventy point one percent of teachers have ten or more years of experience, 25% have 3-10 years, and 4.9% have less than three years experience. Bemidji improved in all MCA tests and outperformed the state, closing the American Indian and Free & Reduced Lunch achievement gaps. We also noted that the Bemidji High School and district five-year graduation rates are 10% higher

than the four-year rates because of the alternative programming we provide to support students who are not able to graduate in four years.

4. Kathy shared the 2015-2016 School Improvement Plans booklet format and complemented the principals for their excellent work setting goals and planning school improvement. Every school team sets SMART goals based on data and lists staff development activities to support their goals. These plans are also included on the WBWF website.
5. Next we discussed Fall 2015 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and AIMSweb results. MAP is a computerized assessment given to students in grades 2-9 in the fall and spring. Teachers use the strand information, which is aligned to the MCAs, to determine where to focus instruction. The lowest reading strand for grades 2-9 is Informational Text; and the math strands vary by grade: grades 2-4, Number & Operations; grade 5 Data Analysis; grades 6-8, Algebra; and grade 9 Geometry & Measurement. Overall, Bemidji students perform well compared to the national MAP norm group, and grades 6-9 consistently perform more than three points above the norm math and reading RIT scores. Growth from fall 2014 to fall 2015 is not as high as we will see in the spring because of the Summer Slide.

The AIMSweb reading and math one-minute assessments are given one-to-one to students in kindergarten and grade 1. The goal is for the percentage of students at Tier I to be 80%, and we have a ways to go; however, we are improving each year. We look forward to measuring growth with AIMSweb again in the winter and spring. Last year we saw significant growth.

6. Solway Elementary is on Continuous Improvement this year, so they must set aside 20% of their Title I funds to support efforts to improve. Tom Gray of MDE informed Kathy Palm that MDE will audit Solway's Continuous Improvement process this year. They will be at the school most of one day and check whether they are doing what they wrote they would do in their Schoolwide Continuous Improvement Plan. Kathy will update this committee when more information is available.
7. Kathy reported on the 2014-2016 Curriculum Review for: Art, Health, Music, Physical Education, and World Language. All subject areas are making progress at aligning to the state Standards and selecting materials. They will report to the Curriculum Committee May 10, and they will ask the Bemidji School Board to approve their new curriculum outcomes in June 2016.
8. Kathy shared the latest information about the transition from Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA, or No Child Left Behind) to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The House approved the bill December 2, 2015, with a 359 to 64 vote. The Senate approved it December 9 with an 85 to 12 vote, and President Obama is expected to sign it before the end of the year, possibly as early as December 10, 2015. Here are some of the key points of ESSA:
 - The bill shifts key decisions about accountability, educator evaluations, and school improvement to state and district authorities.

- State assessments will continue at the same grade levels, and all schools will be held accountable for achievement, English Language Learners, four-year graduation rates, and other indicators such as growth, school quality, student or educator engagement, and safety. A 95% test participation rate is still required, and districts and states still need to desegregate the data by subgroup.
 - States are required to submit an annual plan to the federal government, and districts are required to submit annual reports to the state, such as Minnesota's World's Best Workforce Report.
 - The new bill does not include language about highly qualified teachers, teacher evaluation, college and career ready, or student data privacy.
 - The bill calls for more flexibility with Title I funding for innovative initiatives.
 - The bill authorizes preschool development grants through the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services jointly with the Department of Education.
 - Assuming Obama signs the bill, NCLB would end July 1, 2016, 2016-2017 would be a transition year, and the new ESSA would take effect during the 2017-2018 school year.
9. The next meeting of the District Curriculum Advisory Committee is at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at the District Board Room. The main topic will be Response to Intervention (RtI) and professional development with our specialists, Karie Hougard (Reading/Social Studies) and Amanda Mix (Math/Science).
10. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.