

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2018 – District Office

Attending

Parents: Kimberly Crawford, Alisa Lesetmo

District: Angie Lauderbaugh, Greg Liedl, Amy Merschman, Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce

Interns: Hailey Bronden, Nicole Page

McKinney Vento

Bemidji Area Schools' District Social Workers, Angie Lauderbaugh and Amy Merschman provided a presentation to parents and staff about transitional students.

McKinney Vento, summarily:

- Requires schools to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, and success for homeless students
- Keeps students in their schools of origin - provides stability
- Schools must provide adequate transportation for students in transition **(when feasible and in the best interest of the student)**
- Schools are required to provide classroom materials to students in transition
- Schools are also required to pay for students in transition to attend school functions and educational programs

Fostering Connections

"The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 amends Titles IV B and IV E of the Social Security Act, to improve educational stability for children in foster care." (Minnesota Department of Education, 2013)

The Fostering Connections Act requires child welfare agencies to create and implement a plan to ensure educational stability for children in foster care and:

- Assures that a child is placed with regards to an appropriate school setting as well as the proximity of the school in which a child is currently enrolled
- County child welfare agency is responsible for ensuring the student's educational needs will be met at the new foster placement
- If the current school is not in the best interest of the child, the child welfare worker and local education agency must provide immediate enrollment in a school that would best fit the student's needs
- Must provide proper documentation for the new school
- Cost of transportation should not be a factor for consideration under this act

Transportation

The Director of Transportation for Bemidji Area Schools, Greg Liedl, shared information about the combined efforts, across the district, to make sure transitional students have the opportunity to attend school on a daily basis.

The #1 barrier for many families in transition is a lack of transportation.

Survey Results for Beltrami County (n= 140):

- 52% of individuals surveyed do **not** have a vehicle
 - Walking was the #1 solution listed
- 59% stated they could **not** afford a Paul Bunyan Transit punch card (10 for \$15)
- The top 3 reasons for which a person needs reliable transportation are:
 1. Medical appointments
 2. Shopping
 3. Work
- How the lack of transportation has affected individuals
 - 58% stated “I cannot find work”
 - 55% stated “I have missed work”
 - 82% stated “I have missed critical appointments”

Future Meetings

- February 9, 2018, 11:30am: Central Elementary
- April 2018: Lincoln Elementary (date to be determined)
- May 4, 2018 8:00am - 4:00pm: District Office Board Room (Kindergarten Packet assembly) - please volunteer for as many hours as you are able over the course of the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in on the fun! ☺
- May: Solway Elementary (date to be determined)