

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2013

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

Homeless Program

Angie Lauderbaugh, Bemidji Area Schools' Homeless Social Worker, shared what is happening with homelessness in the school district, region, and state. Currently in Minnesota, 22 percent of homeless families are two-parent homes. Most children who are homeless and with their parents are age 12 or younger and 47% are age 5 or younger. Last year the Evergreen Youth and Family Services Drop-In Center served more than 600 youth and Bemidji Area Schools served nearly 300 homeless students.

The ISD 31 McKinney Vento grant money is used, primarily, to remove barriers that dissuade students from attending school (living quarters; transportation; school supplies; basic needs, etc.).

Minnesota Assessments and Continuous Improvement

The Federal Government was going to revisit and, potentially, revamp the No Child Left Behind program in 2007. This did not happen, however and Minnesota accepted a waiver that by 2014 not all students would be proficient. The Minnesota Department of Education has put in place some pretty stringent requirements that accompany this waiver. Assessment proficiency is alright in the state and Bemidji, but the achievement gap is not good and must be gain improvement.