



Bemidji Homeless Advisory Team

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Members Present: Vince Beyl, Jolene Enerson, Michael Erickson, Stephanie Hubbard, Angie Lauderbaugh, Kathy Palm, Tami Wesely

Minutes:

1. From 1:00-2:00: Angie and Jolene compared students to be sure we have accounted for all homeless students. We have 270 students to date. Many new students are enrolling who are homeless.
2. We reviewed the March 26 meeting minutes. We discussed the information sessions held with Evergreen. They questioned the registration process as first but now realize that this is a better way to protect students' private information. They have provided a waiver for two students to continue at the AEC instead of enrolling in school full time because of risk issues.
3. Angie shared a year-end letter for letting families know that their special McKinney Vento transportation will end at the end of the school year. She will include a survey of their experience with our district transition program and provide an incentive for them to return the completed survey to her.
4. We discussed approving a letter for open enrolled families as they begin next school year regarding transportation with an attendance policy for the special transportation - example, three missed days without notification and they would need to return to their home school. There are two chronic families right now with very poor attendance who do not let the district know when they are not coming to school. This is a bigger issue that should include other entities such as judicial, tribes, and social services. Angie will contact Roberto Reyes at MDE for approval, and we will discuss this further at the next meeting.
5. We discussed: What, if anything, can we do for families that are truly homeless and have not established a home in several years? We need to be consistent for those who move out of the district. They can be open enrolled unless they are dropped for lack of attendance or discipline issues. One family in the Lincoln area has found a home after two and a half years.
6. Angie provided an update on the "more than 3 days" Evergreen students. Four are currently enrolled at the high school, two graduated, one went on run, and one transferred.
7. Angie shared that the Kids in Transition (KIT) groups are working well. Central's group had 100% attendance and students really enjoy it.
8. Vince shared that September 13-18, 2015, there will be free eye exams and glasses for grades 1-12 at the Cass Lake High School. He will post the information, and forms must be turned in by June 4. The focus is for Indian students, but others may attend as well.
9. Our next meeting date is Thursday, May 28, at 1:00 in the district office.