



Title I Teacher Meeting

2:00–3:00, Friday, March 17, 2017

District Board Room

Members Present: Audra Allen, Kelly Blair, Kim Bolte, Lori Clifton, Vince Collyard, Terri Forseth, Michele Green, Jason Luksik, Kathy McKeown, Nancy Neis, Gigi Nicoson, Sarah Nielsen, Kathy Palm, Darlene Riewer, Heather Sande, Liana Schaefer, Pat Welte

Minutes:

1. The October 3, 2016 meeting minutes were included, but there was no business that needed to carry into this meeting.
2. Kathy discussed the federal Title I funding changes. The new administration is proposing \$9.2 billion in cuts to the U. S. Department of Education. Included in those proposed cuts are eliminating the 21st Century Learning Communities grant and Title II, Part A professional development, as well as many other programs in order to increase funding for defense, charter schools, and vouchers. Title I could see an increase only to provide portability, meaning that the monies would follow the student. Kathy shared a MDE Title I Update that tells programs to plan for a possible 5% cut to this year's budget and 10% to next year's. Most federal programs will see a 10% cut next year. As a result, the 2017-2018 Title I allocation will be less than the 2017-2018 Title I salaries, meaning that Title I will see staffing cuts for paras and/or teachers. We are planning for the worst case scenario, but if the cuts are not as bad, we can add back staff. The problem is that the federal government is very slow at providing budget numbers, and their fiscal year starts October 1.
3. Kathy shared the 2017-2018 Schoolwide Plan and MDE Changes. This year the actual schoolwide plan will not be uploaded to the Title I application. Instead an assurance signed by the principal and superintendent will be uploaded saying that all of the schoolwide requirements have been addressed. If we are monitored, MDE will also look for proof of schools' meeting the Ten Elements, which are not included in the current plan. Kathy will send the Title I teachers the Ten Elements to address and keep on file.



She will also send the new schoolwide form and their last schoolwide plan that included the Ten Elements. Hopefully, this will make the process easier.

4. Kathy shared 2016-2017 data and demographics including:
 - a. Ethnicity, Free & Reduced, Special Education & Homeless
 - b. 2015-2016 Mobility
 - c. 2015-2017 Attendance
 - d. 2016 Graduation Rates
 - e. Winter 2017 AIMSweb Results
 - f. 2017 OLPA Summary Results

Bemidji District's 2016-2017 K-12 free and reduced rate stayed the same as last year at 48.9%. New this year is a multi-ethnicity rate, which affects the other ethnic percentages. Our total minority rate is up by 2.6% to 28.1%. Mobility also increased to 22.0% with Central at 49.2% and J. W. Smith at 34.9%, very high for elementary schools.

5. Teachers shared ideas about what they are doing to prepare students for the MCAs:
 - a. J. W. Smith has started their MCA Blitz, which is very popular with the students. They also provide a medal ceremony to recognize students who meet, exceed, and show growth.
 - b. Solway provides a popular awards ceremony for students who meet and exceed on the MCAs. They also provide students with a Testing Survival Kit. The night before the test, each student wears a sticker home that tells parents to make sure their children get plenty of rest and eat a good meal before testing.
 - c. Lincoln celebrates March Madness with special skills preparation in the computer lab using Study Island. They announce the top three students for these events each week. They provide prizes and the chance to dunk their principal and teachers in the dunk tank.
 - d. Central provides their students with medals, ice cream treats, and a gauntlet walk. Students also receive notes from other students wishing them well during testing. Their Blitz includes reading and math strategies and testing vocabulary words.
6. The RtI Team saw a webinar today on Primary MAP, and they were impressed with the different tests available for primary students. These



include: the MAP survey test, a screener, and many math and reading skills diagnostic tests. NWEA will provide Primary MAP free to our district for the rest of the school year, so teachers can try it. Teachers can login to NWEA MAP to get an idea of the primary tests. At the bottom of the screen click on MAP for Primary Grades Test Warm-Up. From there, you can see the video directions showing students how to go through the test. Below that are samples of the tests. Kathy asked the teachers to check it out and let her know what they think. If teachers' reactions are positive, we may change from AIMSweb to Primary MAP.

7. Kathy shared the Title I Parent Advisory Council meetings dates:
 - a. Friday, November 18, 2016: Cancelled because of weather
 - b. Friday, December 9, 2016: Central Title I
 - c. Friday, February 24, 2017: J. W. Smith Title I
 - d. *Wednesday, March 29, 2017: District Homeless Program*
 - e. *Friday, April 21, 2017: Lincoln Title I*
 - f. *Friday, May 5, 2017: Kindergarten Packet Assembly at district office*
 - g. *May 2017: Solway Title I*

8. Kathy asked if teachers are interested in a presentation on homelessness, and it was decided that this would be better scheduled in the fall since spring is so busy. Kathy is attending MDE Title I meeting at Thief River Falls May 2 about ESSA, funding, and Title I requirements. She will schedule a meeting after that to share the information with the Title I staff.

9. Kathy shared some freebies she had received from publishers, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00.