

# Bemidji Area Schools - Title I Parent Advisory Council

## **Meeting Minutes**

**November 14, 2014**

**J.W. Smith Elementary**

### **Members:**

*Parents:* Angie Berg, Maria Eastman, Jean Feia/Steever, Bethann Humphrey, Cindy Tuomala, Alisa VanDyke, Jennifer Verdugo

*District:* Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce

### **J.W. Smith Elementary Education**

Some highlights on effective intervention education at J.W. Smith include Reading and Math Interventions, grades 1 and 2 team teaching, use of Number Worlds, Reading Recovery, Leveled Literacy Intervention, and striving at every grade level to raise levels on MCA and MAP test strands.

The math specialist is providing paraprofessional training on Number Worlds which provides strong math intervention for students. The paras work with small groups of students providing a good educator-to-student ratio. DCD, LD and their paras are also working on Number Worlds. At the Kindergarten level, 19 students will benefit from the structured Number Worlds program. The math specialist will provide training on this curriculum to staff across the district.

For the prevention of bullying J.W. Smith Elementary is running the “Rusty” videos for students on a regular basis, which meets the school and district goal of a “Safe and Welcoming Environment.” Students seem to be responding very positively to this mode of behavior training.

### **District Update**

Kathy Palm explained the process on the Title I Monitor visiting our district in January. J.W. Smith is one of the schools the Monitor will visit. Information will be requested for payroll, highly qualified staff, the 2015 school-wide plans, and time

and effort. A printed guide is available for the district and schools to follow in preparation of the visit.

Parents and Title Staff were provided copies of the 2014-2015 Title I Parent Involvement Plan Procedures, the 2014-2015 Parent Notification Letter, and the Fall Title I Newsletter.

Bemidji Area Schools provides professional development for staff to assist in maintaining their highly qualified status. Early Release Days provide the time for professional development of paraprofessionals and licensed staff.

Kim Kusler (District Response to Intervention Specialist) is studying books and DVDs on Guided Reading and sharing her knowledge with staff. Some of the teaching tools are located on the *Guided Reading with Dr. Jan Richardson Website*: <http://www.janrichardsonguidedreading.com/resources-1>

The World's Best Workforce Web pages and content are coming together: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/curriculum/worlds-best-workforce/>

MN State Legislation required districts to achieve five main goals:

1. School Readiness – all students are ready for Kindergarten
2. Third Grade Literacy – all students will read at or above the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level by third grade
3. Closing Achievement Gaps
4. High School Graduation – strive for a 100% graduation rate
5. College and Career Ready – ensure student college and career readiness

An invitation is extended to the group to serve on the District Curriculum Advisory Committee.

### **Other**

Will the new level 4-5 elementary school change the Title I program at current elementary schools? MDE will look at students and the percentage of those at free and reduced price lunch. This will drive Title I funding for schools.

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting is Friday, Dec. 12 at the District Office.