

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2016
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members: Ami Aalgaard, Melissa Bahr, Vince Beyl, Brandon Bjerknæs, Brent Colligan, Erin Curran, Michelle Dahlby, Mary Fairbanks, Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Karie Hougaard, Carol L. Johnson, Maura Johnson, Kim Kusler, Ann LongVoelkner, Amanda Mix, Kathy Palm, Craig Rypkema, Ken Schreiber, Brian Stefanich, Wendy Thompson, Chris Tolman, John Truedson, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena, Janine Wahl

Guests: Leo Alberti, Tyler Kondos, Kristen McRae, Mike Ohl, Scott Peterson, Stephanie Rupp, Ashley Sands, Janet Weaver, Kate Whittington,

Agenda

1. Breakfast beginning at 6:30 a.m.
2. Introductions—tell us who you are and where you work
3. 2014-2016 Curriculum Review Reports—Curriculum Objectives, Resource Selection, & Planned Training
 - Art – Mike Ohl & Leo Alberti, Chairs
 - Health – Scott Peterson, Kelly Schoonover, & Kate Whittington, Chairs
 - Music – Janna Carlson, Janet Weaver, & Ashley Sands, Chairs
 - Physical Education – Stephanie Rupp & Tyler Kondos, Chairs
 - World Language – Kristen McRae, Chair
4. Minutes from February 9, 2016 (see handout) – High School PE credit information & Solway's Title I audit March 21, 2016
5. One District, One Book for 2016-2017—Dr. Hess
6. 2016 MCA Testing Overview—Kathy Palm
7. Other: Duluth Alternative/Online visit April 25
Edgenuity Online Learning Program
2016 Summer Program
8. The District Curriculum Advisory Committee meets at 7:00 a.m. the second Tuesday every other month and additional times as needed. The following schedule is set for 2016-2017 at the District Board Room, Downtown Education Center:
 - Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 7:00 a.m.

Thank you for your dedication to Bemidji Area Schools and our students!

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2016
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Brent Colligan, Mary Fairbanks, Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Karie Hougard, Carol L. Johnson, Maura Johnson, Ann LongVoelkner, Amanda Mix, Kathy Palm, Brian Stefanich, John Truedson, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena, Janine Wahl

Minutes:

1. Members introduced themselves and reviewed the December 8, 2015 minutes.
2. Brian Olson, JROTC Instructor, provided a PowerPoint detailing his request to provide elective physical education credit for JROTC training activities. Currently, 72 students in grades 9-12 participate in ROTC. Their training activities are strenuous and meet the Minnesota Physical Education Standards. The Curriculum Advisory Committee members discussed the ROTC activities and agreed that these activities are strenuous and meet PE expectations. The question for the group was, "Can an instructor who is not licensed to teach physical education in MN provide PE credit?" Kathy will contact MDE to ask this question. She will also call other school districts that have JROTC to ask if they provide PE credit and how they do that. We will discuss this at our next meeting.
3. This year Bemidji District used Title II funds to hire two RtI Specialists: Amanda Mix, Math & Science RtI Specialist, and Karie Hougard, Language Arts & Social Studies RtI Specialist. Amanda and Karie provided information about their activities so far this year and the training opportunities they have provided. They have already accomplished an impressive list of activities including: providing curriculum support to new teachers, creating SMART Board lessons for grades K-5 Math Expressions, creating a Writing Portfolio for grades K-6 with examples of student work, and training in: Guided Reading, Six-Traits Writing, Daily 5 Cafe, Google, Viewpoint Data Warehouse, SMART Board, Weebly, and Math Talk. The district's RtI focus has changed to curriculum support for providing good, core instruction.
4. Bemidji High School Principal, Brian Stefanich, explained the Bemidji Mechatronics Career Academy. Currently, nine students are attending the NTC Mechatronics course. All nine were interviewed by Potlatch and Norbord, and all nine have been offered jobs. This is the first Bemidji Career Academy to start, and we have plans to start five more for next fall. The Career Academies provide students with experience in a career, college credit, high school credit, and a business opportunity.

5. Kathy explained that MDE will audit Solway's Title I Continuous Improvement plan on March 21, 2016. Tom Gray will come from MDE, and he has provided nine pages of questions for district administration, school principal, teachers, and parents. He will also observe classrooms and meet with the administrators at the end of the day to detail the results. Kathy will report the results at the next curriculum meeting.
6. Kathy shared the Winter 2016 AIMSweb Results for Kindergarten and Grade 1. We observed strength in Math and Phoneme Segmentation for both grades. The areas we need to focus kindergarten instruction are Letter Naming Fluency, Letter Sound Fluency, and Number Identification. Grade 1 needs to focus instruction on Curriculum Based Measurement and Math Computation. In May students will again be benchmarked in reading and math AIMSweb.
7. Kathy explained the new Every Student Succeeds Act that replaces No Child Left Behind. No Child Left Behind will end August 1, 2016; 2016-2017 is a transition year; and the new law will be fully implemented in the 2017-2018 school year.
8. The next District Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 7:00 a.m. The District Curriculum Review chairs for art, music, physical education, health, and world language will explain their review process, alignment to the state Standards, and the materials they have selected.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Summary of Information about Physical Education Credit in Minnesota Regarding JROTC's request to grant PE credit February 2, 2016

Kathy Palm contacted MDE, and their main concern is that the MN Physical Education Standards are covered, and credit is awarded by a licensed physical education teacher. It is the district's decision regarding how we do this.

Kathy also contacted the following districts who offer JROTC:

1. Sarah Sorenson-Wagner, Principal, Woodbury High School:
 - a. We do not reward PE credit for JROTC.
 - b. We believe their curriculum cannot properly cover the required physical education standards:
 - i. Benchmark 1: Students will demonstrate competence (basic skills, strategies, and rules) in an increasing number of more complex versions of at least three of the following different types of movement forms: aquatics, team sports, individual and dual sorts, outdoor pursuits, self-defense, dance, gymnastics.
 - ii. Benchmark 2: Students will document their competence in two or more types of movement forms, such as playing a team sport using all the skills and strategies, demonstrating proficiency in a variety of swimming strokes or creating and demonstrating a gymnastics routine.
 - c. I also have concerns about awarding PE credit in a course that is not taught by a licensed PE teacher.
 - d. Awarding PE credit can be a slippery slope. Our district also does not award PE credit for high school level athletic participation.
 - e. I know some units are struggling because the Air Force is enforcing a 100 participant requirement. The other high school in my district, Park High School, was put on probation because they had fewer than 100 students. JROTC instructors are seeking ways to increase enrollment.
2. Kerry Timmerman, Principal, Park High School:
 - a. We, too, have fielded similar requests. However, we have told our ROTC instructors that since they are not licensed PE teachers, they can't award PE credit since they don't meet the "highly qualified" teacher standard.
3. Kevin Davis, Assistant Principal, Johnson Senior High School, Saint Paul:
 - a. I've spoken to our counselors and principals at the building and we currently do NOT offer PE credit in ROTC. We would not support issuing PE credits in ROTC due to licensing issues and making sure that we are fulfilling all state and NCAA licensing/course approval rules. We have great faith in and respect for our JROTC team here at JHS, but we work to avoid any crossovers outside of licensure areas.
4. Douglas Revsbeck, Principal, Harding High School, Saint Paul:
 - a. NJROTC is an elective credit only and does not qualify for PE credit. It has been discussed in past years; however, it comes back to the MN state license required for PE.

Solway Elementary 2015-2016 Continuous Improvement Audit Report
March 21, 2016
Tom Gray, MDE

Tom Gray, MDE, interviewed Kathy Palm, Local Education Authority contact; Tami Wesely, principal; Solway Leadership Team teachers; and three parents. Tom was very impressed with all that Solway is doing to improve student achievement, and the parents are extremely complimentary about Solway Elementary. MDE specifically examined the following areas:

1. School Leadership Team
2. Comprehensive Needs Assessment
3. SMART Goals
4. Usable Interventions
5. School Improvement Action Plans
6. Implementation (Fidelity)/Progress Monitoring Data
7. Resources
8. Parent Involvement/Family engagement
9. Evaluation
10. Job Embedding Professional Development
11. Standards Alignment

The Commendations are on the reserve side.

MDE Recommendations:

1. Strengthen leadership team core structures and critical features as informed by best practice
2. Ensure rigor of school SMART goals
3. Ensure implementation data (fidelity checks) for selected interventions
4. Ensure sufficient time and support for effective PLCs

When Solway completes their 2016-2017 Title I Schoolwide Plan, they must incorporate the above suggestions in that plan and submit it to Tom Gray by August 31, 2016.

Solway Elementary School Commendations from Stakeholder Interviews

LEA Administration	Leadership Team	Professional Development	School Climate	Family Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is solid support from the superintendent, curriculum director and the Board for continuous improvement initiatives. "The District Data Retreat has become a highlight every fall to look at data, root cause and school level action plans." "By using Rural and Low Income grant funds, the district subscribes to the Viewpoint Data Warehouse and teachers and principals are able to get specific information on all of their students." "We post the school plans on the district 'World's best Workforce' site, print the plans, present them to the Board, district Curriculum Advisory Committee and the district Staff Development Committee; school teams work hard at making their plans the best they can be by focusing on data, SMART goals, and creating manageable plans." "There is 20% of the building Title I funds dedicated for school improvement activities." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Continuous Improvement team includes all (7) classroom teachers and the (4) specialists. The team meets every month for one hour. It did meet every other week for a while to work on school improvement activities." "The principal is a dedicated and passionate leader. She is half time at the building site." "Core members of the leadership team represented the school at the district 2015 Data Retreat process." "SMART goals were identified in the improvement plan." "There is use of the Record of Continuous Improvement." "The school works on their improvement plan throughout the school year and the curriculum director provides demographic, MAP, OLPA and MCA information as it is available." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A math/science RtI specialist and an ELA/social studies RtI specialist were hired to provide additional support, resources and intervention strategies in the areas of math and reading to all district schools." "We also had teacher professional development from Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 2015 and June 8, 2016 is set aside. The district data retreat was Aug. 24, 2015 for the school data teams." "The teachers participate on RtI teams at least once a month plus on Early Release days. All RtI team meetings have an agenda and a note taker. In addition, Solway's Student growth Team meets once a month with an RtI specialist (math or reading)." "In addition, RtI training provided strategies to target gender issues and increase achievement." "Paraprofessionals are also receiving training with Responsive Classroom." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The small group of teachers has created a strong culture of teamwork." "The teachers are hard workers and have really focused on school improvement." "All of the school staff work well together and do a lot of amazing things." "The after school Targeted Services program looks at student needs and supports. We doubled the number of children in the after-school program this year." "The Reading Recovery program has really helped with my child's confidence and now they are doing really well." "The reading support from the Title I program has been the most positive and my child's reading level is going up." "The Tiger Bags, which include books, activity sheets and other information and tips, really helps my child over the summer months." "All the school staff knows everyone – it's a family atmosphere." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Each Title I school is provided with parent involvement funds. There is also a formal family engagement plan. The schools keep track of family engagement participation and Solway has had very good support from parents." "Solway schedules two nights in addition to a full day to attain good attendance for parent-teacher conferences." "The family events focus on reading and math skills and introducing families to games that can be played at home to improve these skills. The school is intentional about encouraging families from different student groups to attend." "There was a "Back to School Night" that had an intentional focus of targeting the performance of boys in math and reading. Strategies and activities were discussed and parents were encouraged to support these as well throughout the school year."