

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.