

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2017 – J.W. Smith Elementary

Attending

Parents: Angie Berg, Kimberly Crawford, Sondra Gudmanson, Robin Harris, Berit Rosenberg

District: Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce

J.W. Smith: Audra Allen, Kelly Fagerstrom, Michele Green, Nancy Neis, Sarah Nielsen, Ron Oldham, Stacey Pfremer, Pat Welte

J.W. Smith Elementary Education and Title I Services

J.W. Smith Title I staff explained their roles and services to students. There is currently a greater focus on sentence writing, vocabulary and handwriting. Staff and parents discussed how many students are not following directionality when printing and that can affect their reading and writing abilities.

Number Worlds is a tool students often use for assistance with their math skills. This addition to curriculum is beneficial to student success.

Reading Recovery, Leveled Literacy and Minnesota Reading/Math Corps are crucial elements to the quality education J.W. Smith Elementary provides.

Title I staff will meet with Bemidji Area Schools American Indian Culture and Curriculum Specialist, Jared Blanche and Indian Education Coordinator, Sonia Wadena, in December.

Title I Information

Information was shared about the benefits of Title I and the services schools receive with such funding. Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum & Administrative Services, explained how Title I funds are census driven. Title I received \$50,000 less this school year and Title II was cut by \$100,000. Title II may be a program that becomes obsolete.

Testing Data, Changes, ACT

Attendees received a report on Bemidji Area Schools Spring 2017 State Assessments. Ms. Palm explained the data to parents and staff.

Family Engagement Plans and Parent Notification

Each attendee received a copy of the Bemidji Area Schools Title I District Family Engagement Plan for 2017-2108, along with a copy of the Title I newsletter containing the Parent Notification.

Kindergarten Packets

The packets that were assembled by the district and PAC last spring were/will be disseminated to families of 2017-2018 Kindergarten students at orientation or fall conferences. They are very nice and well-received by parents. Title I will cover the cost of packets again for 2018-2019 Kindergarten students. Jacque Pearce will purchase materials and manage the assembly May 4, 2018. Parents are invited to volunteer their time.

Future Meetings

- December 1, 2017, 11:30am: District Office Board Room (Focus on McKinney Vento and the Homeless Program)
- February 9, 2018, 11:30am: Central Elementary
- April 2018: Lincoln Elementary (date to be determined)
- May 4, 2018 8:00am - 4:00pm: District Office Board Room (Kindergarten Packet assembly)
- May: Solway Elementary (date to be determined)
- Additionally, we may feature Culture in Education