

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2017
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members Attending: Ami Aalgaard, Jared Blanche, Erin Curran, Mary Fairbanks, John Gonzalez, Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Amanda Mix, Gigi Nicoson, Kathy Palm, Jason Stanoch, Brian Stefanich, Chris Tolman, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena

Non-Member Attending: Joe Bowen, Bemidji Pioneer

Minutes:

1. Members introduced themselves and shared where they work. Then we reviewed the May 9, 2017 minutes.
2. Kathy shared new topics for 2017-2018:
 - Last summer the Bemidji School Board and administrators developed the 2017-2022 District Strategic Plan, which is a five-year plan. Besides continued emphasis on student achievement and the five World's Best Workforce goals, the district plans to focus on cultural diversity, community partnerships, quality and diverse staff, and being a high-quality and successful district.
 - The 2017-2018 Curriculum Review area is K-12 Language Arts. That committee will meet soon and report to the District Advisory Committee in May. They will present the new standards-aligned objectives to the School Board in June 2018, and we will order new resources in July.
 - The 2017-2018 State Testing Dates include some changes. MDE is no longer offering OLPA testing, which is similar to an MCA practice test. MDE will only pay for the students who receive free or reduced lunch to take the 2018 ACT. Dr. Hess and the Bemidji School Board approved the district's covering the cost for the rest of the 11th grade students. This year the district changed from AIMSweb testing to Primary MAP for kindergarten and grade one to better align with the testing at the other grade levels. It is an adjustment for staff, but we hope to have better data for our students and the ability to diagnose when students are having reading or math difficulties.
 - We now have four Professional Development Specialists: Leo Alberti, Technology Integration; Jared Blanche, Cultural Curriculum; Amanda Mix, RtI Math/Science; Gigi Nicoson, RtI Reading/Social Studies. They shared some of the training they have been offering including two successful trainings for new teachers.

3. The Bemidji School Board has asked us to form a committee to address Cultural Diversity in the newly revised curriculum policy. We need to present this to the school board at their December 18 meeting. The following people have volunteered to serve on this committee: Ami Aalgaard, Dr. James Barta, Jared Blanche, Leah Bratlien, Susan Eichstadt, Mary Fairbanks, Dr. John Gonzalez, Matt Menne, Amanda Mix, Kathy Palm, and Sonia Wadena. We have also asked for interested high school English and social studies teacher volunteers. The committee will meet in October.
4. Kathy shared the 2016-2017 World's Best Workforce Report, which was approved by the Bemidji School Board in September and posted on the web at: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/> under Curriculum & World's Best Workforce. New this year are several reports that used to be separate including: Staff Development Report and Q-Comp Report. The WBWF summarizes the district and school goals and how each entity met them. Kathy also shared a two-page summary of 2016-2017 school successes. A summary WBWF report is due to MDE December 15, and that will be scored with a rubric. Kathy will share the results with this committee in May.
5. Kathy shared the 2017 District & State Assessment Summary, which included K-1 AIMSweb; 2-9 NWEA MAP; MCA Reading, Math, and Science; ACT; Advanced Placement; and College in the School. Overall, we are seeing nice gains, especially at the secondary level. The District outperformed the State in the subgroups we track for every subject, and Bemidji All Students outperformed the State in MCA Math and Science.
6. 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 2017-2018 at the District Board Room, Downtown Education Center:
 - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 7:00 a.m.
7. The meeting adjourned at 8:10.