

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I District Parent Advisory Council

Luncheon Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2019 - Lincoln Elementary

Representatives

District Title I Representatives: Supt. Lutz, Colleen Cardenuto, Jacque Pearce

Central Staff: Vince Collyard, Terri Forseth, Carolyn May, Tami Wesely

District Parents: Rebecca Bentfield, Angie Berg, Jennie Beugler, Kimberly Crawford, Sondra Gudmanson, Berit Rosenberg, Amanda Sherwood, Melissa Truax, Alisa VanDyke

Lincoln Education and Title I Services

Lincoln Title teachers typically run pullout for students in order to focus one on one. Occasionally, Title staff provide push-in for small groups. There are many positive things happening at Lincoln. Title I paraprofessionals are all certified teachers; students are excited for their service time; seeing good gains and hoping for greater; students need to feel safe and this happens in smaller groups; kids need to know there is a relationship (Social Emotional Learning); parent involvement is very positive.

Some events Lincoln holds involving parents and families include Donuts for Dads, Math Madness, Spring Family Night and American Indian Night.

Family Engagement Plan

Parents and Title I staff each received copies of the school and district Family Engagement Plans to review the content and provide input.

In addition to the Family Engagement plans at the district and school levels, parents would like to see surveys, web pages, newsletters, guidance for transitioning 3→4 and 5→6.

Parent Feedback

What is going well?

- Paras are all certified teachers
- Kids are excited for Title services
- Seeing good gains
- Kids need to feel safe and this happens in the smaller group
- Kids need to know there is a relationship (SEL)
- At home papers, projects and the Parent Involvement piece are very positive

How can we improve?

- Often, when students need intervention, parents feel this help is a negative stigma. They feel like they are in trouble.
- Parents hope for better communication from schools. The Lincoln PTO, for example, shares information about events via Facebook.
- Kids reading to parents for 5 minutes each day (teacher suggestion).
- Teachers and administration need to be flexible.
- Reading for fun is very important.
- Platform of tips and tricks to make transition easier: parents can ask questions and teachers are available to answer.

2018-2019 Parent Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

- October 26, 2018: J.W. Smith
- February 13, 2019: Central
- May 3, 2019: Kindergarten Packet Assembly
- May 10, 2019: Lincoln
- May 22, 2019: Gene Dillon
- May 23, 2019: Solway