

Bemidji Area Schools - Title I District Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Luncheon Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2019 – Gene Dillon Elementary

Representatives

District Title I Representatives: Christine Christiansen, Colleen Cardenuto, Superintendent Lutz, Amanda Mix, Jacque Pearce

Gene Dillon Staff: Principal Aalgaard, Nancy Hanson, Wendy Nyegaard

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

Gene Dillon Education and Title I Services

Gene Dillon Elementary is a Title I Targeted assistance school. This means the Title services are available to students with the greatest need for intervention only – not to students throughout the school.

Title I teachers work with parents and students to improve Title services in math and reading. This includes some pullout and some push-in intervention. There is a strong team in place at Gene Dillon.

This school encourages students mentoring students and sees nice results. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) programs are amazing – encouraging students' inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking through an applied approach.

Gene Dillon Elementary communicates with families and the community in many ways, a couple of which are the “Dillon Happenings” and the “Eagle Eye News.”

Social Emotional Learning

Superintendent Lutz spoke about the district thrust for improved school climate and social emotional learning (SEL). This promoted more connection with students and families, student engagement, responsive classroom, and a safe and welcoming environment. Because students are unable to advocate for themselves, they need a good support system within their schools.

MTSS replaced RtI

Bemidji Area Schools also has the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) in place. The framework provides targeted support to struggling students. A multi-tiered system of supports uses data-driven problem solving and incorporates system-level change to address both the academic and non-academic needs of all students. This model provides a

comprehensive framework for how and when to administer support, and allows for the tools and time to implement such strategies. MTSS generally uses a four-step problem-solving process for making team-based decisions.

Parent Feedback

What is going well?

- Small group sessions
- Parents are able to come in to volunteer with Title services
- STEM and STEAM programs

How can we improve?

- “No wonder we cannot get the test scores up; dealing with student behaviors!”
- We need better communication. Suggestions are to use electronic options such as Facebook or Remind App.
- Kids that are doing well tend to be left out, sometimes. *School-wide* services seem to more helpful for the high achievers.
- A mentorship to Bemidji High School and Middle School would be a positive for students to experience partner reading.
- Not every parent would understand Title I services:
 - Simplify information
 - Program Definition
 - Achievement Information

The Title I brochure posted and distributed in October provides good information to parents.

2019-2020 Family Engagement Plan

Parents and Title I staff each received copies of the school and district 2018-2019 Family Engagement Plans with revisions for 2019-2020. Parents appreciate the current document and have no revisal suggestions.

Other

The next and final PAC meeting at Gene Dillon Elementary is on Thursday, January 16, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

2019-2020 Parent Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

- October 11, 2019, 12:30 p.m. – Lincoln
- November 1, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – J.W. Smith
- November 20, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – Central
- January 16, 2020, 11:30 a.m. – Gene Dillon
- May 14, 2020 12:00 p.m. – Solway