

NDCI Advisory Board Teleconference Call

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

1:00-2:30 PM CT

Meeting facilitated by: Justin Wageman, NDCI

Anne Tweed, Conference Call Facilitator atweed@mcrel.org Phone: 303-632-5528

(North Central Comprehensive System – Director: Ceri Dean)

Present: Justin Wageman, David Saxberg, Deb Syvertson, Melanie Kathrein, Anne Tweed, Steve Joyal, Lois Myran, Susie Atkinson

Minutes were reviewed from January 12, 2007

*The dates for the PLC have been changed to April 26 & 27. Location will be determined and team will be notified.

1. Social Studies Review:

(Feb 5, Jamestown – Feb 6, Dickinson – February 7, Minot)

Steve, Dave and Lois reported on the Social Studies Review meetings at the three sites. In general, the participants at the sites felt that it was a very valuable experience and that the discussions were thoughtful. The writing team appreciated the feedback and alerted the groups to the parts of the draft document where they especially needed comments from the field. At the 4th grade level, the primary concern is the amount of time expected to be spent on the ND Studies. (There are now new materials available to teach the 4th grade ND Studies.) Is it the whole year and what happens to the continuum of third, fourth and fifth grade standards. At the high school level the major concerns were about when to start US History, will there be a ND studies piece and is there too many psychology benchmarks and too few economics benchmarks. The middle level concerns were with the number of benchmarks. Everyone was reminded that feedback is still being accepted using the DPI website until March 20th.

This is a process that could be used when additional standards are revised.

2. Differentiated Instruction Conference:

February 12-13th. Lois, Dave, Linda and Melanie attended

The conference was sponsored by the ND Collegial Learning Project. Marci Emberger talked about Understanding by Design as an integrated piece of differentiated instruction. There were 120 plus participants. Weather impacted the second day of the conference but differentiated instruction is an issue that exists statewide. The ND CLP is working to support different professional learning groups where the district will choose the topic. That will allow for multiple schools to collaborate and work together on the topic that is most important to them. The ND CLP is coordinating with their JPA and the draft proposal has been sent to DPI.

This is an opportunity for the NDCI to help build this into part of a statewide networking piece. This would a chance for to create a process for sharing ideas and topics from district to district. To support this, it was mentioned that there needs to be sessions on best practices and facilitation protocols to have guided conversations.

These sessions should be part of the NEEC (Is this correct??) conference held in the fall. Topics to network could be classroom assessments, adolescent literacy, differentiated instruction, writing strategies, teaching reading in the content areas, standards based report cards, RTI, etc.

3. Professional Learning Communities:

The dates for the PLC Workshop in Bismarck are April 26 & 27. McREL will assist with arrangements for the meeting and Justin has scheduled to have the meeting at the Kelly Inn. Justin talked about the original idea of having Mark O'Shea as a keynoter and his message is not really our focus. Bob will work on contacting Dr. Tom Meany who has previously worked with the Fargo and Grand Forks school districts. The audience is still administrators and school/school district teams. The two day workshop should include sessions on getting started, lesson learned, Nuts and Bolts sessions, and how PLCs support the school improvement goals. Justin/Anne/Bob and Linda will report at the next conference call.

4. Response to Intervention Discussion:

Many districts are using RTI now. Reading First is a model that looks at and is based on RTI principals. In Jamestown with RTI, the K-3 referrals have dropped significantly. They are working on progress monitoring now. In Mandan they are studying RTI before developing a plan. In Minot, they had a presentation with Carol Massinari and John Porter which was too technical. They are looking at a district model that is not just a special services model. Once again a big issue is progress monitoring. Currently districts are using Dibbles and probes but in Minot, they need to agree as a team how often to monitor. One of the biggest issues with secondary school plans is scheduling which is more flexible at the elementary level.

RTI is a process to use to help all students with issues. It is not just about special education teachers but all teachers. Basically it is being able to provide differentiated instruction for all students. So what does an effective program look like at the HS level? Dickinson is getting started on RTI and they have formed study groups. They will be sponsoring an RTI workshop on May 3-4, 2007.

Long Term Planning around RTI:

- How should the NDCI be involved?
- How should this be coordinated with DPI (John Rudden and John Porter)?
- NCCC (Anne will talk with Ceri) will contact the Center on Instruction and the National High School Center to talk about the possibility of working with a district in ND to set up a pilot RTI project at the high school level.

Iowa has years of working with this process. We can look at their process to help answer the question, "How do you create a well-integrated system of instruction/intervention." RTI is not just about reading.

4. ND Assessment Conference:

Lois reported on the Assessment conference will be held at Century High School on August 14-16. Information is available at www.edutech.org. The first day includes all day topic sessions, the second day is for concurrent sessions and the third day will have all day topic sessions. They are looking for concurrent session proposals.

5. NDCI Planning:

NDCI has a funding cycle that includes 4 meetings through out the year. This includes summer/fall/winter and spring. Possible future meeting topics include:

- Standards Based Report Cards- Linda has a meeting in May to try to move this along
- Balanced Literacy Plan/Adolescent Literacy
- Secondary Mathematics Achievement
- Elementary and Secondary Science Achievement

Preferred dates are August 1-2 for a summer session.

Next Conference call: Tuesday, March 20th– 1:00 – 3:00 CT

McREL's Conference call system: 1-800-330-7428 Code: 6325528#

Agenda:

PLC (Updates and setting of final plans)

Standards-Based Report Cards (Possible NDCI August session)

RTI (Update on contact with COI and NHSC)

Long Term planning dates and activities

What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the man who instructs the rising generation? -Cicero