

**District Excellence Planning Team Meeting
Tamarack District Library
March 15, 2010**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Dr. Pope, Sara Shriver, Ron Pincumbe, Nick Herblet, Chris Smith, Brenda Thompson, Katharine Andersen, Bailey Colon-Waite, Kyle Hamlin, Holly Poll, Colliene Willison, Tanya Ringlever, Verna Carr, Tim Erspamer, Kathy Nerychel, Kathy Custer, Missy McCain, Sarah Hicks, Gary Jensen, Kim Tompsett, Scot Donley, Jill Dagley

Welcome and Introductions:

Sara Shriver gave a welcome and reviewed the day's agenda.

District Process Rubric Review:

Sara Shriver reviewed the district process rubrics (19) as completed by Central Office and Administration. The document was also sent out to all staff for review in early March, and the DEPT reviewed the document today for a final approval before submission.

Rubrics to go back and review included

1. Page 12 - Indicator 12 – Culture of Collaboration was questioned. The rubric calls for a framework for evaluating collaborative efforts and a K-12 collaborative effort for Professional Development, both of which are not yet in place.
2. Page 17 – Indicator 13 – Highly Qualified Personnel – Can we move from Getting Started to Partially Implemented because of the fact that as a District we have sent the non-tenure teachers and their mentors to the BEST Series at the MAISD. Sara will go back and look at the rubric and share with the Ad Team before submission to MDE.
3. Page 18 – Indicator 14 – the district does not yet have EACH staff member on a plan for individual professional development, nor do we have a formal District-wide PD evaluation plan at this time.

Model Schools Presentation:

Gary Jensen shared a presentation with the team regarding Dr. Willard Daggett's research on Model Schools. The presentation was about "making changes" and transformations.

Break

Strategic Planning:

Dr. Pope shared a brief overview of the strategic planning process status levels. Dr. Pope sent out the update of the strategic plan to all staff via email. She asked that all teams return to their buildings and begin to plan for next year.

Consolidation of Services:

Dr. Pope shared the Consolidation of Services plan with the teams. The district signed a Memorandum of Understanding to use the Preschool and At-Risk funds to fill the hole in the State per pupil funding. In order to do this, the district needs to complete a State report so that the plan can be approved, which the State has not yet made available to districts the reporting form. She asked for input if other participants had other ideas to include in the plan.

Race to the Top:

Dr. Pope shared information regarding Race to the Top (RTT). Dr. Pope, Gary Jensen, Sara Shriver, Kyle Hamlin, Katharine Andersen and Deb Flynn will be a working committee to review and develop an implementation plan to meet the requirements of RTT in terms of teacher and administrator evaluation. Dr. Pope shared the County MEAP scores as printed in the Greenville Daily News. Dr. Pope also shared that teacher and administrator evaluations will be based on student achievement, and all teachers and administrators will be evaluated annually beginning next year (2010-2011). The growth model has not yet been determined by the State. The evaluation committee will begin drafting some ideas on March 22, 2010 and as guidelines are received from the State, the district will incorporate into the evaluation tool.

Dr. Pope also reminded the teams that certified staff and administrators will have to take an on-line course by an accredited university beginning next year.

Federal Grant Funding Update:

Sara Shriver shared the Consolidated Application Federal Programs Amendments that were completed and submitted to MDE on February 15, 2010. Along those same lines, Sara shared the areas that there may be carry over for next year, which will help in the planning process.

The discussion then turned to looking at the programs for the 2010-2011 school year. Sara shared the estimated allocations for the Federal Programs, which outlined the shortfall to fully maintaining all programs in the K-5 buildings. Also in the mix is the fact that the At-Risk funding is not given to locals until October, which is way late to plan programs for the fall. The following questions were posed to the staff to discuss at the meeting today as well as taking back the information to gather other input from building level staffs.

1. Which buildings should be Title I?
2. What programs should be at each building?
3. Should we transfer 50% of the Title II, Part A funds into the Title I programs like we have in the past, except for this year because of the ARRA funds?
4. In terms of At-Risk funding, should we:
 - a. Plan for it, then cut programs if we don't get it mid year.
 - b. Don't plan for it, then add programs back if we get it.
 - c. Use all of it to help cover general fund, if offered.
 - d. Use a portion of it to help cover general fund, if offered.
 - e. Don't use any of it to help cover general fund, if offered.

Lunch

Federal Grant Funding Update General Feedback:

At the next DEPT meeting on 4-26-2010, the Non Public Schools will be invited to attend to join in the planning for our federally grant funded programs. We will come to some decisions regarding the Title I and At-Risk programming for 2010-2011.

Process for Layoffs and Bumping:

Dr. Pope has met with both the LEA and LESPA President's to discuss the layoffs and bumping process, and she shared the plan with the teams today.

Building Level Team Time:

Building level teams were given time for school improvement planning.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2010 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Tamarack District Library