

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes  
November 30, 2011  
6:00 p.m.  
Central Office**

**Present: Frank Brown, Lora Downing, Linda Laughlin, Dodie Leighton, Gary N. Smith, and Laura Tracey**

**I. Call to Order**

6:00 p.m.

**II. Review NCLB Grant Application and NCLB Review in February**

Linda Laughlin presented a summary report on the Title I, II and VI grants. She reported that she had recently received word that there will be a reduction in the Title I funds of about \$12,000. Last year the funds were devoted to 4 buildings in District with Title I students: Belgrade Central, China Primary, Atwood Primary and Williams Elementary. Funds were used to purchase electronic software that supports Title I students for direct instruction in the classroom, and sometimes Title I tutor provides support using the electronic software. Success is measured by no decrease in student performance. Rather, the use of the funds in this manner assists the RSU in expanding materials and software that will continue to be used into future years when these funds are reduced.

Title I staff recently attended the IPAD workshop in Auburn. The intent of the IPADs is to provide literacy and math support to students. Some of the funds must be spent by December 31 and will be used to purchase IPADs. IPADs will be purchased with other funds for the James H. Bean School, as this school is not Title I eligible.

Ms. Laughlin shared that all federal funds are now received on a reimbursement model, the RSU must spend the funds and then request reimbursement.

Title I professional development funds may be used just for Title I staff. A portion of Kathy Harris-Smedberg's salary is Title I funds, as she supervises and meets with Title I literacy staff.

Title II funds support teacher quality, and some of these funds must go to Erskine Academy. These funds have decreased by about 50% over the last 5 years.

Title VI is the Rural Low-Income grant. These funds support Everyday Math at the elementary schools, with an elementary math coach in each school one day per week, as well as the Maine Course Pathways project as part of the standards-based professional development.

The February Title I review is scheduled for February 29<sup>th</sup>. This NCLB review occurs every 5 years. It is referred to as the NCLB review as it is a total review of all federal requirements, including the LAU plan. RSU 18 employees are starting now to collect data and materials. This is similar to a mini accreditation review. RSU 18 will receive the requirements and rubric in advance, and the visiting committee will review how the funds are used, as well as technology, and will check to be sure the RSU is servicing appropriate students.

### **III. Professional Development update**

Ms. Laughlin presented the current professional development calendar. She reviewed the variety of activities held in the month of November. She also presented the activities around Beacon training and classroom visits scheduled for December.

Teachers are in the process of looking at the curriculum in math, science, social studies, and English Language Arts and providing feedback upon which revisions will be based. To support this work Ms. Laughlin made a request that a student seat day become a workshop day in January dedicated to curriculum review and provide feedback. There is currently one extra student day scheduled. To prepare for this work the Vertical Content Committees have been meeting once per month, and it is hoped that the RSU will be able to bring these groups and others together on January 24 to review the feedback. Attempts are being made to give as much time as possible for teachers to dig in and look at curriculum and provide feedback. The request for the use of a student day on January 24<sup>th</sup> is not a normal request, but this work and this year in the work are exceptions, and the administrators are asking for Board support.

### **IV. Open Discussion/Roundtable**

### **V. Other**

### **VI. Next meeting: January 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**

Future discussion: The Committee will review the revised Lau Plan, Ms. Laughlin will also provide information regarding the revised curriculum policy and protocol for adding curriculum and making curriculum changes. There will also be a report on the MDOE strategic plan.

### **VII. Adjournment**