

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

Steve Atwater

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MEMORANDUM

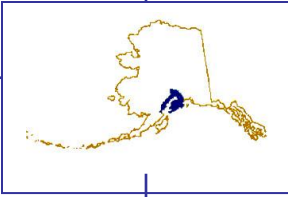
Date: April 7, 2009

To: School Board Members

From: Steve Atwater, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction *Sam Roach*

Re: District Instructional Team Update

At our worksession on April 13 you will be receiving information on the next steps for the District's instructional proposal and an overview of how the District proposes to spend the stimulus funds. Two documents are included with this memo: a copy of the memo sent to all certified staff on next steps for the instructional proposal and a summary of proposed areas for stimulus funds expenditures.



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Assistant Superintendent

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Date: March 18, 2009

To: Principals and Teachers

From: Steve Atwater *SA Atwater*

Re: Next Steps for Instructional Proposal

Background

On January 19th and 20th an instructional proposal was presented to the District's certified staff. The presentation proposed that the District make changes to four areas: one, the way it develops curriculum (based on learning goals); two, assessments (common assessments for the learning goals); three, reports learning (report behavior separately) and four, conducts collaboration (create better processes for sharing best practices at the site and District level). For the five weeks following the presentation, certified staff discussed the merits of the proposal. At the end of February and early March, site principals reported to the Instructional Team on their staffs' level of support for this proposal.

Next Steps

Although it is clear that the staff did not reject any of the four areas outright, it is also clear that the District as a whole is not ready to move forward on two of them. The general consensus is that developing curriculum based on learning goals with common vocabulary and enhancing our level of collaboration are both items that our staff supports. We will thus move forward to make these two things happen. Our future curriculum development will be based on learning goals and include common vocabulary. In early June principals and one or two teachers per site will be trained in quality practices for collaboration. This training will help your school and our District improve its level of collaboration. As for the common assessments and changing reporting, these will not move forward at the district K-12 level at this time. Please note, however, that the work on reporting that was done at the elementary level will continue.

What Was Learned

To the teachers, I recognize that for many of you the instructional proposal was presented without enough prior knowledge. I apologize that the Instructional Team and the principals did not do a better job preparing you for this presentation. I also recognize that the conversations regarding the proposal served as a way for you to reflect on our current instructional practices. I hope that these conversations will act as a springboard for future improvement efforts. The positive to take away from this experience is that it was a chance for the certified staff to be a part of a District level decision.

The District Instructional Team is charged with monitoring instruction and setting direction for instructional improvements that will lead to a greater level of student learning. Please note that the Team is receptive to, and will seek your input on this and other instructional issues. Thank you for your willingness to participate in this process.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Proposed Use of Stimulus Funds

What follows is a summary of KPBSD's proposed use of the estimated 5 million dollars in stimulus funds. They will be considered special revenue funds and will not be used to supplant current expenditures. The stimulus money will be used to expand the capacity of the District through training opportunities and by improving its technological infrastructure. The District expects that these funds will lead to increased teacher quality and a higher level of student achievement.

Title VI-B

Training staff on the use of intervention materials

IEP Development training for special education staff

Preschool Disabled

Assistive technology

Training for determination of preschool disabled students

Title I

Development of a Longitude Data System (LDS) that would allow all the various databases to "talk" to each other.

Interventionist training (tier I and II)

Software for early literacy acquisition

Classroom labs for intervention

Development of a tool to assess effectiveness of preschool and area Head Start programs

Fiscal support for Project Grad Program

Title II D

Wire schools to offer wireless learning environment

Develop more on-line learning opportunities

Train teachers on how to integrate technology into instruction

Fiscal Stabilization Funds

New teacher orientation

Technology training lab

Stimulus funds coordinator