

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Willmar, MN 56201**

**Present:** Brian Gauer, BOLD Dean of Students  
Bruce Kiehn, EV/W Principal  
Ed Downey, PACT 4 Evaluator  
Ian Graue, PACT 4 21st Century Grant Coord.

Lance Bagstad, RCW Superintendent  
Larry Schueler, ECHO Charter School Administrator  
Sandi Arndt, Canby Principal  
Sherri Broderius, ACGC Superintendent/HS Principal

**1. Introductions and Site Reports**

ACGC: is working hard to get high school kids into the program, and is running weekend activities and two days after school during the week. Because Mondays are now available due to the four-day school week, there will also be programming held one Monday a month in each of the communities: Cosmos, Atwater, and Grove City.

EVW: is looking to maintain numbers at the high school, where attendance is averaging about 30 kids. The elementary program exploded initially in grades 3-6, but numbers are starting to dwindle a little bit, and they're looking at why and how they can boost them back up.

Echo: waited until October 1<sup>st</sup> to get programming started, and is now running two nights per week, in both the elementary and in high school. Both programs are run separately, but have some combined activities.

BOLD: things are going well, and programming is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are excited about attendance numbers.

Canby: switched coordinators this year and school started early – August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new coordinator waited until football season was done and then he started programming.

RCW: numbers are up 50% from last year, with an average of 40 elementary attendees and 17 high school attendees. Programming has increased from two days to four days per week. They are “looking hard at data” with Viewpoint, a data management system. There are a lot of kids very close to target scores and 21<sup>st</sup> Century is helping those involved to raise their scores. Viewpoint shows one how to take the information and data generated and apply it to kids to enhance their curriculum. Both NWEA and MCA test scores are “dumped” in the system, results are generated much quicker, and it shows strengths and weaknesses.

**2. Quality Matters**

21st Century grantees are required to have some measure of quality, and we chose to use Quality Matters. Research shows that there are negative consequences of poor quality programs. More than a three-day per week dosage is good, and we need to think about in the future of increasing the days per week of programming. In talking to the site coordinators, Ian learned that they are in favor of Quality Matters, but not in favor of Quality Matters staff. The message from the state is that we have to have some tool to measure quality. Site coordinators have been trained on the tool, and they need to start using it.

**3. EZ Reports**

There was training for site coordinators on October 11. There are some problems yet at this stage. BOLD seems to be fully up and running, and it would be helpful to use BOLD staff to assist other schools with outstanding issues. All but one school has their data uploaded. One of the required monthly reports is student attendance, but EZ reports should be able to generate it (as long as data is entered timely) so those reports don't need to be sent in every month via paper records. It's not necessarily living up to its name at this stage, but Ian is confident it will in the future. Brian noted that there is someone at St. Paul Schools that has said she'd be willing to come out and help it get up and running to its full potential.

**4. Other Matters**

**NPASS Training:** not all schools are doing this, a science-orientated fun activity. It is great material, teaching science using readily available materials and process-orientated activities. Sites on board needed to sign a new contract for the project, and all but one are signed and in.

**SURVEY MONKEY:** the recommendation for the future is to conduct school connectedness surveys online via Survey Monkey vs. paper copies.

**Expenditure reports:** are due November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Money distribution:** 7% was held back for submissions for extra funding. One proposition that came up is to use some of the fund for schools that are doing the NPASS program. Because of the extra costs involved in sending staff to six training sessions per year, the proposal is that funds be allocated to help cover additional salary costs. This money would come out of the 7%; the overall budget included money for schools to run programming and for staff development, but NPASS is additional staff development that isn't part of the grant. This seems a reasonable way of spending some of the holdback funds. Consensus is that it would be okay if coordinators want to do it. In April when the training is done, we can reimburse districts for whatever training costs have been incurred. Also, this committee will need to make a decision soon on how to distribute the remaining holdback fund. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Project promotion:** we encourage advisory committee members to spread the word to coordinators to continue to keep producing information not only for the PACT 4 newsletter but also in local community newspapers. Sally Belgum-Blad suggested a tool to use, a monthly parent communication checklist, that could assist coordinators in this process.

**Federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Site Visit:** will be scheduled for the beginning of the next school year. Ian distributed a handout about what the site visits will cover, and will share it with coordinators next week. This is a definite confirmed visit. Sheila Oehrlein at the state also mentioned talking about regional site visits "coming up".

#### **5. New Business**

Brian heard about a free snacks program for after school, but is not sure where it's from. Sandi thought it was based on the free and reduced lunch count, and sites would maybe have to track how many free and reduced are in the after school programs. Food service directors may have more information, or perhaps business managers. Ian will also check with Sheila to find out if she knows more about it.

#### **6. Next Meeting Date**

Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 8:30 am in Room **2045**.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4*