

21st Century Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009; 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Willmar, MN 56201

Present: Bob Tews, Cedar Mt. School Superintendent Larry Schueler, ECHO Charter School Superintendent
Bruce Kiehn, EV/W School Principal Sally Belgum-Blad, Grant Coordinator-PACT 4
Ed Downey, Evaluator-PACT 4 Sandi Arndt, Principal-Canby School

1. Introductions and Site Updates

ECHO – students and staff are still very high on the program; things are going well with unending ideas being generated. Started the year with programming two nights per week and worked in activities like physical conditioning so it would have broader appeal. Discussing summer program with proposals and lots of ideas are being tossed about.

Canby – been in more of a transition phase as the person running programming took a long-term substitute position, but they have found others to fill in. Struggling at the high school to fill in numbers, but it’s going well at the elementary level. Working on plans for the summer.

Cedar Mountain – the site coordinator and staff know what they want out of the program and are making it happen. Things are still going well. Kids that used to go if nothing else was going on are now putting 21st Century programming as a priority before anything else. Hopes are that the program continues to grow.

EV/W – going well; one instructor has been on medical leave, which caused some re-vamping of activities.

2. Coordinator Report

The second quarter ended July 31st. Sally distributed a summary of Year 2 Progress Reports. Challenges for sites included: finding licensed teachers who are interested in working in afterschool enrichment and keeping them; offering fun programming that keeps junior high-age youth attending while keeping the intentional academic focus; school sports hurting numbers; and consistent communication with bus drivers. Successes included: consistent numbers in elementary-level buildings; supportive and creative paraprofessionals; attendance incentives; and regular participation by male middle school-age youth.

Upcoming professional development opportunities are a Project Wet and Project Learning Tree training from the MN DNR in June, a School Connectedness conference in August, and a Poverty conference in August.

3. Year Two Budget Review

A copy of the final Year Two budget was distributed. It includes carryover dollars from year one.

4. Request for Extra Funds Applications

There are requests for additional funding that have already been approved. Eden Valley/Watkins (EV/W) requested \$2477.37 for a family nights. Cedar Mountain, Renville County West, EV/W, Buffalo Lake/Hector (BL/H) and Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City (ACGC) have all requested funding for Reader’s Theater After School Kits, for a total of \$3058.40. BL/H requested \$15,203 for three field trips – to the Science Museum, MN Zoo, and the MN Children’s Theater.

Totaling \$64,875.60, additional requests are: EV/W - \$3600 for additional field trips before school ends; \$5660.60 for a week-long adventure at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN; ECHO Charter - \$3850 for an overnight trip to Camp Sanderson in Spicer, MN; ECHO Charter - \$4504 for Lunch and Learn Program; ECHO Charter - \$9622 for a 7-day road trip following the Mississippi River; Cedar Mountain - \$37,639 for a 4-day/3-night trip to Washington, D.C.

After discussion, the following were approved with changes if deemed necessary:

- ECHO Mississippi Trip – changed fuel rate to \$0.55 per mile, added \$10.00 per person per day for meals, for a **total of \$11,662 – request approved.**

- Cedar Mt – request was to use funds to pay half parents support to them to go on the trip; there was much discussion that followed, and it’s believed that there is nothing in our grant that would cover this type of expense. Parents can go on the trip, but they would need to cover their entire cost. Approved funding to maintain a ration

of one staff per every three kids. Removed the parent funding of \$1,411, **total of up to \$36,228 – request approved.**

- EV/W – requests for field trips transportation and Wolf Ridge for a **total of \$9260.60 – requests approved.**
- ECHO – requests for Camp Sanderson and Lunch & Learn Program for a **total of \$8354 – requests approved.**

After approval of these requests, there are \$64,407 carryover funds remaining.

5. Other

Staffing idea – when the grant was written, it said that only licensed staff would be used. Canby has been approved to use two student teachers who are under the supervision of licensed teachers to help in their programming. This may work with other sites as well. Others to contact would be retired teachers who have let their licensure lapse, but they could be under the supervision of licensed teachers and still be able to be involved in the programming.

Sally was asked about an abbreviated training for new site coordinators. Depending on the previous coordinator and what kind of records that person kept, it may be easy or hard to begin new in the programming.

One more idea generated to help with staffing is to have someone who's a part-time coordinator in one site, be a part-time coordinator in another site, making the position essentially full-time.

6. Next Meeting Date

June 9th at 8:30 am, in the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Room 2045.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4