

Minutes

September 27, 2006
Meeting of the Title I Committee of Practitioners
Room 217
Oliver Hodge Building
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Kathy Draper called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Attending: Ms. Jackie White, Mr. Danny Jacobs, Mr. Robert F. Burton, Sr., Mr. Mike Anderson, Ms. Mary Shannon, Ms. Debbie Quadracci, Ms. Jennifer Mankins, Dr. Kathy Dunn, Dr. Alan Ingram, Ms. Roberta Ellis, Ms. Vivian Bunch, Ms. JoAnn Layne, Ms. Ann Ewing, Mr. Steve Hart, Ms. Judy Craig, Ms. Kathy Draper, Ms. Amber Polach, Ms. Erin Clapper, Ms. Gayle Castle, Dr. Ramona Paul, Ms. Misty Kimbrough, Dr. Cindy Koss

1) On agenda item number 1, Introductions and Introductory Comments

Dr. Cindy Koss, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Standards and Curriculum, and staff highlighted the new organizational chart for the Office of Standards and Curriculum. Gayle Castle, Team Leader, mentioned that our departments have approved over 1300 applications for Title I, II, V, and VI.

2) On agenda item number 2, Highly Qualified Teacher Update and the Title II Equity Plan

Dr. Koss stated that 7.1 percent of teachers in Oklahoma are not highly qualified. Due to recent monitoring from the USDE, some of the criteria in the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) plan had to be revised. Dr. Koss stated that new data required will be collected this year. Dr. Koss also mentioned that if a district is not 100 percent highly qualified then the district and teacher need separate action plans to determine what needs to be done to accomplish the 100 percent requirement. Dr. Koss stated that the district and teacher action plans were due to the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Office of Standards and Curriculum, by Wednesday, November 1, 2006, as requested in a letter sent to all district superintendents dated July 25, 2006. A question from a committee member, "How do alternative education teachers reach highly qualified status?" Dr. Koss stated that alternative education teachers can create a HOUSSE. A question from Ms. Kathy Dunn, "What about the teachers who are responsible for the students who are placed in a temporary psychiatric facility who are ages 7-17?" Dr. Koss responded that she would find the appropriate guidance to address the issue.

Misty Kimbrough, Assistant State Superintendent, Special Education Services, mentioned Dr. Marilyn Friend's recent professional development on the subject of co-teaching, and referred to the pink guide book from Dr. Friend. A question regarding the

distribution and copyright of the book was raised and Ms. Kimbrough said that she would check on the copyright information. Ms. Kimbrough highlighted two main items to help teachers meet highly qualified requirements. The first is a Comprehensive Personnel Development Plan in each of the core academic content areas taught. The second is a State Personnel Development Plan grant that would partner with higher education to pay for staff to take classes and test fees.

Dr. Koss mentioned a new online system that is due out the first of next year under the professional standards division to assist Oklahoma Department of Education employees and districts in identifying teachers that do not meet the highly qualified requirements.

The committee expressed concern with the highly qualified special education teacher requirements at the secondary level. Ms. Kimbrough stressed to the committee that there is no exception for a teacher not to meet the highly qualified requirements.

Dr. Koss let the committee know that she was working hard to get the Title II Equity plan finished by Friday, September 29, 2006. Dr. Koss let the committee know that the focus of the plan was that all students should be taught by highly qualified and experienced teachers, especially students in high-minority, high-poverty areas. A question was asked by a committee member, "How many years is considered experienced?" Dr. Koss replied that an experienced teacher is one that has three or more years of experience. Dr. Koss reiterated that we need to have an equitable distribution of experienced qualified teachers. A question was asked by a committee member regarding incentives for teachers. Dr. Koss said incentives were available under IDEA and Title II, Part A federal funds. A question was asked by a committee member, "How do we make schools equitable?" Dr. Koss stated that the best way to meet equity requirements is to match the assignment to the qualified teacher. Dr. Koss let the committee know that we have 183 districts with 100 percent of their teachers highly qualified.

3) On agenda item number 3, School Improvement Funds and Technical Assistance

Dr. Koss let the committee know that the "What Works in Schools" presentation by Dr. Marzano is rescheduled for November. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Ms. Draper let the committee know that the School Support Team will be using a new technology, the Logi Tech pens, when providing technical assistance and feedback to the schools based on the Oklahoma Nine Essential Elements.

4) On agenda item number 4, Oklahoma State Department of Education Title I, II, V, and VI Monitoring Process

Ms. Draper announced that for future monitoring all of the letters for Titles I, II, V, and VI will be streamlined. A question was asked by a committee member concerning who will be monitored in fiscal year 2007. Ms. Draper stated that everyone who is going to be monitored through the desk or on-site monitoring process will be notified by letter. Ms. Castle stated that there will be one visit per school reviewing Titles I, II, V, and VI. Ms. Castle stated that if you have been audited in the past year, we will not audit you this year unless you have a large allocation or an internal audit finding.

The committee asked for clarification on school support team versus monitoring. Ms. Draper stated that the school support teams are in place to provide technical assistance and the monitoring is in place to meet USDE compliance requirements.

Ms. Draper requested feedback from the committee in regard to the monitoring letters.

A question was asked by a committee member, “Why are Titles III and IV not included in the Grants Planning/Management responsibilities?” Ms. Draper stated she did not have the answer, but would inquire about their question and respond promptly.

A committee member expressed concern over the recent cut of \$100,000 in her district’s Title V program. Ms. Draper suggested that the committee members spend their federal grant funds immediately and implement their plans to achieve goals and not carry over or wait until the last minute to spend funds to help prevent future cuts. Dr. Paul suggested that schools demonstrate evidence on how the students have improved under the federal grants.

A question from the committee was asked about the future of the Even Start program. Ms. Draper explained that the program is taking cuts and suggested that the program coordinators look for alternate grants for funding.

Dr. Paul stressed to the committee that HOUSSE is not going away as hinted in a letter from a USDE representative. Dr. Paul stated that only congress has the authority to do away with the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

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