



Montana
Schools of
Promise

Lame Deer Schools of Promise—Planning for Improvement Update

October 13, 2010

Each month, Lame Deer Office of Public Instruction (OPI) team will briefly report on the status of some of the initiatives being implemented and plans for the next steps related to the School Improvement Grant. Remember, we have three years to implement steps through the Transformational Model for School Improvement. During this time, together we will seek to implement many research-based practices and build the capacity to sustain these practices within the Lame Deer School District to continually help improve student achievement.

Update from Jo Swain, Lame Deer

Transformational Leader September has been an extremely busy month for students and staff at the Lame Deer High School. The school improvement process is moving forward in a positive direction with staff invested and striving to meet the process with professionalism of the Schools of Promise plan. The Lame Deer High School SIG plan was sent to OPI staff on September 30, 2010 for approval and budget. The Lame Deer School Improvement Team meets twice a month with a meeting held on September 22 and October 6. Members of the Lame Deer staff will be meeting with other SIG districts' staff at the MEA-MFT meetings on October 21 in Helena. This will provide the Lame Deer staff with ongoing communication and collaboration with teachers who are participating in the SIG process. All meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available on the Lame Deer District website under the Schools of Promise link. The Indian Education Parent Advisory met on September 22. Donnie Wetzell and Jo Swain attended the meeting to answer questions relating to the SIG plan and process. Continued effort will be made to improve communication regarding the high school improvement process with all stakeholder groups. The district administrative team meets on a regular basis with the next meeting scheduled for October 7. This team is responsible for monitoring the improvement plan at the high school, as well as the efforts toward improvement in the elementary school. Additionally, the Lame Deer District Leadership team meets monthly to assist in all improvement programs in progress within the district. The

next district team meeting is scheduled for October 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Mr. Robert Simpson has been hired to serve as the Community Liaison for the Lame Deer School District. His email is rsimpson@mt.gov.

Lame Deer Staff Development The middle and high school staff have been involved in various training sessions starting in August continuing each week during the Wednesday early out time. Topics include: reading and math curriculum, SIG planning, student trauma, behavioral supports within the classroom as well as schoolwide, and teacher evaluation. Continued job-embedded staff development will be a major part of the school improvement process.

Update from Deb Glass, Lame Deer

Instructional Leader September has been a busy month. I began working at the school on September 13 and we have been running full tilt with implementation of the reading and math programs 7th-12th. These are the activities I have assisted your remarkable staff with or done on behalf of your school district. We have assessed about 50 students for reading and we have an end-of-the-quarter math assessment for the 7th grade students. The MAP testing is currently taking place. These assessments will help guide grouping of students within English/Reading and Mathematics. We have had three outside consultants visiting the campus, two for mathematics and one for reading. The Reading/English teachers attended a full-day training in concerning Corrective Reading program. Our next big training is the MEA days later in October where all certified staff will

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attend. Our next steps are to continue to assist the mathematics and reading teachers with their instructional programs. I will perform classroom observations and provide instructional support. I will also continually work with data to assure that students receive the best education possible.

Schools of Promise Website Please visit the Lame Deer Schools of Promise website located is at <http://lamedeer.k12.mt.us/>. Go to the Schools of Promise pull down menu. Meeting agendas, meeting minutes, committee membership, and calendars are located on this link.

Contact Information:

Transformation Leader: Jo Swain
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Instructional Leader: Deb Glass
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Community Liaison: Robert Simpson
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From the Helena Office -- Nancy

Coleman, SIG Unit Director –
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District Action Plans - Your District Action Team whose members include administration, teachers and staff, students, community members, and local OPI staff worked very hard over the summer and through the first month of school to complete its draft District Action Plan (DAP). The DAP is very important because it describes what your school hopes to fund with the School Improvement Grant and with other district funding. The DAP is now being reviewed by OPI and we hope to meet with your District Action Team to review any revisions before the end of October.

New OPI staff hires- OPI continues to work to develop a staff that can truly support and work with the district on improvement efforts. New staff hired this month include: **Deb Glass, Lame Deer Curriculum & Instruction Leader; LaRae Crowley, Frazer School Board Coach; Robert Simpson, Lame Deer Community Liaison; and Savannah Siquah, Pryor/Plenty Coups Community Liaison.** We hope you have had a chance to meet these

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wonderful people, and if not, we will make sure you do very soon! We are still recruiting a Lame Deer School Board Coach and Community Liaisons for Lodge Grass and Frazer.

Professional Development - A core component of our work with your district is to provide top-quality, research-based professional development at your school. The OPI staff expert in school improvement, curriculum and development, school boards and school finances visited the school several times this month.

Donnie Wetzel, Statewide Youth and Community Outreach dwetzel2@mt.gov
Site visits: Lame Deer, Plenty Coups and Lodge Grass

Purpose of the Visits Updating the school personnel on the Community Liaison position and informing them where the community piece will fit in as we move forward in this grant.

General Activities

Working with the Community Liaisons to help establish ongoing communication with the community; looking for committed organizations and people in their respective communities that would step in to help; visiting with the parents groups and the education committees in all communities; working with Tribal Councils and the Boys and Girls club; developing relationships with youth; and researching community-based programs and trainings. I'm looking forward to visiting with you along with our new community liaisons in October, as well as interviewing community liaisons for Lodge Grass and Frazer.

Courtney Peterson, Field Consultant
copeterson@mt.gov

Site Visits

Pryor – August 25, August 27, September 7, 17, 27

Lodge Grass –September 1, 2, 8

Frazer – September 14

Daily communications with Curriculum and Instruction Leaders through phone and e-mails.

Meetings/Trainings

September 15 – **Pryor SIG Team Meeting** – Lincoln Center, Billings

September 20 – **IL Monthly Meeting** – Lincoln Center, Billings

September 29 – **Corrective Reading** – Hardin Language Arts teachers from all four schools gathered to attend a workshop on effective implementation of Corrective Reading. The overall objective of the training was to answer questions, create a network of support and help the teachers become more familiar with this new curriculum.

General Activities

Coordinate orders from each LEA for program materials; Plan **Corrective Reading** follow-up; Collaborate with School Advocate Sarah Pierce, Jean Howard and Kris Goyins, as well as external consultants to plan Oct. 22 training; Oversee and support implementation of Corrective Reading; Coordinate and communicate the work of the Curriculum and Instruction Leaders.

Sarah Pierce, School Advocate Specialist

spierce2@mt.gov

Site Visits

Frazer, Lame Deer, Lodge Grass, and Pryor

Meetings/Trainings

Sept 13 @ Frazer, Sept 8, 9 & 14 @ Lame Deer, Sept 15 @ Lodge Grass and Sept 16 @ Pryor Assisted with the on-site visits from the Algebraic Thinking and Carnegie Learning trainers. While on-site, I attended a faculty meeting, a high school professional development activity and a SIG team meeting.

General Activities

Works on logistics and is on-site twice a month at Lame Deer as a resource to staff. She is organizing details for the upcoming MEA/MFT conference in Helena; building the online community that our teachers will soon join to help collaborate, plan and discuss ideas and other SIG topics; organizing and arranging school calendars to allow outside trainers to

come to the schools to implement some job-embedded professional development.

Projected Questions with some answers:

What process was used for hiring the community liaison? *Since this is an OPI position, this hire was handled exactly as all the other OPI positions. The position was posted on the OPI website and was also posted at several places in the community. An interview team comprised of OPI personnel - Deb Halliday, Mandy Smoker-Broaddus, and Donnie Wetzal were and will continue to interview and select qualified applicants for this position.*

What happens now with the District Action Plan after it has been submitted to the OPI? *A team of reviewers will read all the plans and develop a budget based on the actual amount available each year. The readers must take into account the federal guidelines and the ability of the school district to sustain the initiatives' outlines. Consideration will also be given based on whether the initiative is based in research and best practices. The feedback on the plans is expected to take place by the end of this month.*

Have all SIG-related expenses been submitted and paid? *Not all districts have submitted their reimbursements for all SIG-related expenses, but we will continue to process them as they come into the office.*

**SIG (School Improvement Team)—
Wednesday p.m. (4:00 to 6:00) at the Lame Deer High School. The SIG team meets two times per month!**

October 6, 2010
October 27, 2010
November 3, 2010
November 17, 2010
December 1, 2010
December 15, 2010

Agendas and meeting minutes will be available on the Lame Deer Public Schools website under Schools of Promise.