

Great Prairie Area Education Agency

Advisory Committee Minutes

March 22, 2011

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4:00 p.m. Meeting – Executive Conference Room
Fairfield Arts & Convention Center
200 North Main, Fairfield, Iowa

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Present:

Joe Crozier, Chief Administrator, Great Prairie AEA
Dona Goettsche, Director of Instructional Services, Great Prairie AEA
Pam Rubel, Director of Special Education, Great Prairie AEA
Jennifer Woodley, Communication Specialist, Great Prairie AEA

Bob Carr, Principal, Notre Dame (Non-Public)
Kevin Crall, Superintendent, Albia (Medium District)
Patricia Edenbrack, Teacher-Librarian, Oskaloosa (Media/Tech/Counselor)
Nicole Herdrich, Principal, Central Lee (Elementary)
April Marlow, Teacher, Burlington (Early Childhood)
Susan Martin, Teacher, Davis County (Elementary)
Suzan Menke, Teacher, Fort Madison (Middle School)
Tom Messinger, Principal, Burlington (High School)
Chuck Reighard, Superintendent, New London (Small District)
Norma Rosales, Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa (Parent)
Jon Sheldahl, Superintendent, Ottumwa (Large District)

Absent:

Nancy Brown, Communication Specialist, Great Prairie AEA

Jeff Kirby, Principal, Sigourney (Middle School)
Nathan Wear, Principal, Fairfield (Parent)
Crystal Weaver (Parent)

I. Welcome, Introductions and Purpose of Meeting

Chief Administrator Crozier welcomed participants and reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

II. Review of Demographic Data, Student Achievement Data, and Review Work from Article – *Tough Questions for Tough Times*

Mr. Crozier briefly reviewed information from the January meeting, including enrollment and student achievement data.

Mrs. Goettsche, Instructional Services Director, reviewed a summary of January's group discussions around the article, "Tough Questions for Tough Times."

III. Great Prairie Area Education Agency Future Plans

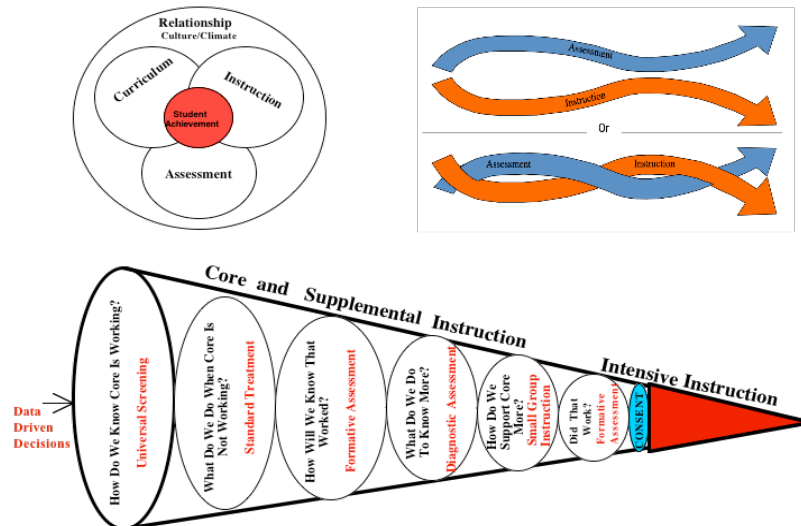
- Recommendations for Future Agency Programs and Services
- Structured Questions
- Report to Great Prairie Board of Directors

Mrs. Rubel introduced the concept of an Integrated Educational System. Great Prairie AEA is focusing their work and creating a Theory of Action for student achievement. Small groups discussed GPAEA's Theory of Action and commented:

- Cultural Proficiency – what does it mean? Idea that teachers need to reach out with help from Parents
- Diversity looks differently at each district, but we all have a concept of Poverty
- Iowa's population has changed significantly
- Characteristics of Effective Instruction and tiers that we are implementing now that we weren't in the past
- Integrated and sharing services is the answer
- Must develop a common language to use across grades, teachers, students
- We talk about Poverty, IEPs, Cultural Proficiency, but true definitions are lost – we must go back to real definitions
- Do Iowans recognize the changing culture? Do they embrace the change
- Focus on relationships and addressing students' individual needs
- In Iowa we feel that everything needs to be "fair," but there are subgroups that need "more" – we should advocate for them

Integrated Educational System that encompasses...

Integrated Educational System



Mrs. Goettsche shared improved “Instructional Strategies” and “Meaningful Use of Data in Decision-Making.” Great Prairie AEA is working differently to deliver support to districts at a building level, not as large group training at the AEA.

Small groups discussed (responses attached):

- Does your table group have additional questions about GPAEA’s 2011-2012 plans for changing practice? If so, what are they?*
- Do you think teachers & administrators will benefit from GPAEA’s plans for 2011-2012? If so, how?*
- Do you think students will benefit from GPAEA’s plans for 2011-2012? If so, how?*
- What are some possible challenges that your district/building may encounter in the implementation of GPAEA’s 2011-12 plans?*
- My table group supports or does not support GPAEA’s plans for changing practice in 2011-12.*

A formal recommendation will be created as a result of the table conversations and presented to the Great Prairie AEA Board of Directors in April.

IV. Adjournment – 5:30 p.m.