

Lame Deer OPI Team - Planning for Improvement November 9, 2010



Change is not consistent, but perpetual. It has its peaks and valleys. We are on a course of sustainable school improvement. Placing the needs of our students foremost as we endeavor to create supports needed for a successful school year, a successful education and a successful life.

Update from Jo Swain, Lame Deer Transformational Leader Many new and exciting initiatives have started both in the community and in the district. All high school students have been placed in the appropriate reading and math class. Testing has taken place throughout the fall to assure the correct placement for each and every student. A huge thank you to Ms. Danae Bills and Ms. Bonnie Granbois for their extraordinary efforts in getting this accomplished. Additionally, staff has spent time reviewing student placement for the 8th hour of the day, which is devoted to enrichment, remediation, and advisory time depending on the needs of each student. Weekly staff development has been taking place, with staff participating in grade level team meetings, subject area team meetings, or general staff development topics. Upcoming staff development will be conducted on the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI), November 10, as well as assessment training conducted by Mr. Frank No Runner, Mr. Aundre Bell, and Ms. Danae Bills. The staff development topics focus on the various needs of staff. Reading staff participated in Corrective Reading training in Hardin at the end of September. The Lame Deer High School SIG team has met on Wednesday, October 6, and Wednesday, October 27. The agendas and minutes of these meetings are on the Lame Deer district Web site under the Schools of Promise link. The Lame Deer District Leadership team met on Tuesday, October 12, to discuss various initiatives pertaining to the entire K-12 district. Topics included staff development training, school day schedules, and building initiatives. The next high school SIG team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the library.

Jo Swain – jswain@mt.gov, Phone: 406-657-1046

Middle School Celebration! A celebration was held at the Lame Deer High School on October 26 to recognize the 7th and 8th graders math progress. These students were recognized for making Safe Harbor, which is a way students can strive to meet Adequate Yearly Progress. This is a huge accomplishment for students and staff. Way to go!



Update from Nancy Coleman, Lame Deer School Board Coach (interim)

I attended the October board meeting and received contact information for all the board members. I visited with Chairperson Bertha Old Bull at the MCEL conference as well as a couple other members of the board that were in attendance. We received great information from the MCEL conference on several

SIG Values: Vision, Collaboration, Capacity Building & Transparency

relevant topics that we hope was helpful to all members that attended. I was unable to attend the "special board meeting" scheduled for this past Thursday, but have the next scheduled meeting on my calendar.

From the Helena Office – District Action Plan - (DAP) Reviews of the plans are getting done. We anticipate being done with the entire group by the middle of November. We are currently finished with the one District Action Plan and will roll Lame Deer information out to your district soon.

School of Promise Performance Appraisal System – (SOPPAS) There will be orientation for staff on this evaluation system soon. We will keep you posted on the upcoming dates and we would invite interested board members to attend that orientation session.

New SIG Staff at the Helena Office: We are proud to announce the hiring of Jenine Synness our Data Specialist and Administrative Assistant. She will be the contact for the clerks as we move forward in this grant. Her contact information: jsynness2@mt.gov Phone: 406-444-0794

Nancy Coleman, SIG Unit Director – ncoleman@mt.gov, Phone: 406-444-3551

Schools of Promise Web site Please visit the Lame Deer Schools of Promise Web site 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 jswain@mt.gov

Instructional Leader: Deb Glass dglass@mt.gov

Community Liaison: Robert Simpson rsimpson@mt.gov

Interim Board Coach: Nancy Coleman ncoleman@mt.gov

School Advocate News – *Sarah Pierce:* While working to provide the job-embedded professional development I have arranged with several providers to assist teachers with specific needs in their classroom. I am also working with other coordinators to support the school in regards to Professional Learning Communities, special education requirements, and National Board Certification. I am currently building communication ties between all four schools to help facilitate teacher development and support. Within that initiative I am developing several social media groups, discussion boards, a Web site and alerting media to events that are highlighting the achievements at our Schools of Promise.

Sarah Pierce, spierce2@mt.gov, Phone: 406-444-0708

Projected Questions with some answers:

What is the process for getting information back to the school on the District Action Plan (DAP)?

The OPI review team will go through the entire plan and then send a review back to the Transformational Leader and the Superintendent who will share that information with the SIG Team and the school board.

What is the purpose of the Labor/Management Team? This team was formed as a part of the MOU and they meet to discuss any labor issue that arises while the MOU is in place. They will make decisions that are usually left to the Board and Union through a negotiation session. This group should be preparing to decide who the 3rd party evaluator will be for the district when the list of trained evaluators is released to the districts.

SIG Values: Vision, Collaboration, Capacity Building & Transparency

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

November 17, 2010

December 1, 2010

December 15, 2010

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

SIG Values: Vision, Collaboration, Capacity Building & Transparency