



## Minnesota Governor's Council for Reading Excellence Meeting

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*  
*9:00-11:30 a.m. – Conference Center B-Room CC-17*  
*Minnesota Department of Education*  
*1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113*

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** *Commissioner Alice Seagren, Jessie Montaño, Representative Sondra Erickson, Representative Mindy Greiling, Peggy Ballard, Marlene Colvin, Bobbi Douglas Gale, Carolyn Gwinn, Bonnie Houck, Bernadeia Johnson, Gail Jordan, Nancy Kaczrowski, Eric Nesheim, Amy Smith, Barbara Taylor, Renae Tostenson, Kate Wilcox-Harris*

**MDE Guests Present:** *Cammy Lehr, Vicki Weinberg*

**Reading First School Guests Present:** *Jane Byrne (Neill Elementary), Deanna Hanks (Neill Elementary), Jenny Mortimore (St. Paul District), Christine Osorio (Wellstone Elementary), Gauthra Taylor (Wellstone Elementary)*

**MDE Staff Present:** *Kären Bihrlé, Kathy Cahill, Paul Klinge, Carrie Mammenga*

Jessie Montaño, Director, welcomed members and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to report formative data after Year 3 of Round 2 of the Reading First Grant. Reading First is beginning Year 4 as a sustainability year with reduced federal funding to the schools and to the department. Jessie, on behalf of the State of Minnesota, thanked Barbara Taylor and shared great accolades on the work that she and the University of Minnesota staff have led in professional development training at Reading First schools. Additional comments were made by council members regarding the positive focus and impact of Reading First professional development in Minnesota.

Minnesota is one of four states involved with the National Center on State Implementation and Scaling Up of Evidence-based Practices. Reading First is one of four current Minnesota initiatives that is being reviewed as having important or successful components of evidence-based practices for scaling up.

Dr. Barbara Taylor, on sabbatical from the University of Minnesota, presented the Reading First Round 2 Year 3 School Report, which is the formative evaluation report for the 2007-2008 school year. A powerpoint summary of the presentation was distributed. Dr. Taylor shared additional comments throughout the presentation with emphasis that the professional development has been based on a research model of School Change of effective schools and effective instruction. There is a strong sense of collaboration, on-going development of teacher expertise and challenging all students. It is much more than just data on students. It is maximizing the cognitive engagement in literacy learning. Regarding Reading First student impact, Jessie Montaño mentioned that comparison has been done on MCAII results with Reading First vs. Non Reading First schools in the State in Grades 3-4 & 4-5. The results indicated Reading First schools achieved at a similar level and in some cases at a higher level than non-Reading First Schools. This is particularly noteworthy considering the higher percent of high poverty and English Language Learners in Reading First schools.

Two Reading First Round 2 Schools, Neil Elementary (Robbinsdale) and Paul & Sheila Wellstone (St. Paul) shared personal reflections of the impact of the Reading First grant on their schools and their roles as Principal, Literacy Coach, Teacher & District Staff.

Kären Bihrlle and Kathy Cahill commented on handouts:

- Mrs. Bush's Remarks at the Fifth Annual Reading First National Conference
- Round 2 Year 4 Schools
- Professional Development Plans for 2008-2009

The meeting ended with sharing a video dedicated to Dr. Taylor and MDE. The video captured the learning from each of the 23 Reading First Round 2 Schools.

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.