

Red River Valley Education Cooperative 2008-09 Professional Development Opportunities



1. **RRVEC 2008 Educators Unite (Claudia Thompson)**
August 19—Alerus Center & Chester Fritz Auditorium
Focus: Differentiated Instruction (DI) & Behavior Management (BMgmt)
2. **Assessment---Unwrapping the Standards (Brandon Lunak)**
 - ❖ Training for New Users
 - ❖ NWEA Leadership Team Meetings
 - August 13 (tentative)
 - October
 - January
3. **Study Group Proposals (for DI & BMgmt focus) (Colleen Schumacher)**
 - Applications due: October
 - Completion date: May
4. **Grade and Content Level Meetings (Assessment) (Dr. Tom Geffre)**
 - K-12 Meetings: October –December
 - Grade Level Meetings: January-February
 - 7-12 Content Level Meetings: October-November
5. **School Improvement Opportunities (Richard Ray)**
 - School Improvement Camp: July
 - School Improvement Leadership Team Meetings
 - a. October
 - b. November
 - c. February
 - d. March
6. **DPI Training (Mike Bradner)**
 - Fall DPI Training: August
 - Consolidated Grant Application: May
7. **Technology In-services (Delivered via IVN) (Tom Cumming)**
 - Monthly pre-determined date using Edu-Tech
8. **Career Education Clusters Training (Merlin Dahl)**
 - Utilize Annette Schmid or Kathy Holly
9. **Mentoring for 1st-3rd year teachers (Dr. Barbara Combs)**
 - Mentoring Train-the-trainer: August
 - Follow-up sessions during the year

Red River Valley Education Cooperative

Box 6000 2400 47th Avenue South Grand Forks, ND 58206-6000 701.746.2205 ext. 167

RRVEC Administrative Board Meeting

Meeting Agenda—September 12, 2007

10:00 AM-12:00 Noon (Note time change)

Grand Forks Education Center

Present: Frank Schill – Cavalier, Marcia Hall – Central Valley, Hy Schlieve – Drayton, Andy Currie – Edinburg, Brandon Lunak – Emerado, Merlin Dahl – Finley-Sharon, Gaillard Peltier – Fordvill-Lankin, Jack Maus – Grafton, Ron Gruwell – Grand Forks, Kevin Rogers – Hatton, Mike Bitz – Hillsboro, Harold Mach – Minto, Joe Defoe – North Border, Kirk Ham – Park River, Larry Durand – St. Thomas, Jerry Bartholomay – Thompson, John J. Oistad III – Valley, Dr. Tom Geffre – Mayville State, Dena Larson – Upper Valley, Mark Wagner – NVCTC, Tom Cummings – Pembina Spec. Ed., Judy Streifel-Reller – RRVEC, Erin May – RRVEC

Absent: Linda Johnston – Nash, Kevin Coles – Northwood, Dr. Kent Hjelmstad – UND, Mary Stammen – GST Spec. Ed., Annette Schmid – NE Tech Prep

Regular Report Items:

Time	Item	Reporting
10:00-10:02	Welcome & Agenda Review <i>Called to order at 10:07am</i>	Roger Abbe, Chair
10:02-10:05	8/9/07 Meeting Minutes <i>Motion Bitz, Second Durand, approved</i>	Roger Abbe
10:05-10:10	8/31/07 Budget Report	Roger Abbe
10:10-10:15	RRVEC 2007-08 Accountability Report a. activity reporting form <i>Hosting district turns in reporting form, will have them posted on website. Website is under construction, will be ready in 30 days.</i>	Erin May
10:15-10:20	RRVEC JPA 8/30 Executive Committee Update <i>Discussed 21st century grant being taken over by REA, decided not to hand over to REA. NWEA reimbursements were discussed, want to be sure same message is passed along to all districts.</i>	Roger Abbe

Unfinished Business:

10:20-10:30	Educators Unite In-service Recap a. Feedback <i>Reviewed survey results and recommendations made to Staff Development (SD) committee.</i> b. Budget Review <i>Estimate we'll be almost \$9,000 under budget after all expenses are in. Using left over funds to finance two follow up sessions.</i>	Erin May
10:30-10:40	RRVEC Committee Structure <i>Will be discussed in Exec. Committee</i>	Roger Abbe

New Business:

10:40-11:00	Educators Unite: a. Assessment Next Steps In-service 10/08 & 12/10 <i>Contracting with Laurie Robinson for follow up sessions with teacher-leaders and administrators. "Train the trainer" model.</i> b. Back-to-school '08 session <i>-Date – hard to do Aug. until we know if we have a common calendar. Is common calendar needed? Can we set SD date and ask districts to hold that open? Wait to have ITV consortiums present suggested common calendar and use as reference. Majority want to keep in August.</i> <i>-Format/Topics – Differentiated Instruction and Behavior/Classroom mgt. All for teacher input, that is what the survey is for and next Aug. is being designed</i>	Mike Bradner
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	<p>based on teacher responses to survey.</p> <p>-Budget – Will use left over funds from this August to finance follow up session in Oct. and Dec. Will see what carries over and use for next August as well.</p>	
11:00-11:15	<p>YORS Project Participation</p> <p>Designed to prevent out-migration in our local communities by giving youth the opportunity to gain skills and recognition in a business environment. Want to pilot 100 kids. Looking for financial support from participating schools. Trying to get funding through other grants as well to help defer costs per student. Let Judy know if you're interested.</p>	Chris Rood & Tracey Foss
11:15-11:25	<p>“Sharing Bridge” Northwood Educator Assistance Project</p> <p>All received info via email, asking teachers to copy REA on emails for Northwood resources so we can create a “share center” on website to share resources and lesson plans between districts as that is always requested in feedback on in-service evaluations.</p>	Judy Streifel-Reller
11:25-11:30	<p>RRVEC Teacher Mentoring Program—working committee needed</p> <p>Interested districts will meet prior to Oct. 10th meeting at 11:45am in Conf. room #2 at GFEC.</p>	Judy Streifel-Reller
11:30-11:35	<p>Sexual Offenders Policy</p> <p>Law is sufficient, but you can expand on that locally if you'd like. Suggested by GF Sheriff/Police that you not become the community notification agency. Leave it to Sheriff/Police. Copy of new GF policy handed out for reference. Following website can be used for your reference: http://www.sexoffender.nd.gov</p>	Roger Abbe
11:35-11:45	<p>Vending Machines</p> <p>Is there interest in group purchasing through Sam's Club since many of us already use Sam's? Could see a significant amount of savings through group purchasing. Fill a semi and they'll deliver to each school. Let Frank know if you're interested.</p>	Frank Schill

Closing Reports:

11:45-11:50	<p>Lead Administrator & Coordinator Insight</p> <p>a. New Membership Requests Two requests will be reviewed by Exec. Comm.</p> <p>b. Health Coordinator Needs Assessment No interest indicated at this time.</p>	Roger Abbe & Judy Streifel-Reller
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Meeting Adjourned at 1:42pm

FYI---RRVEC & NDREA Upcoming Meetings: (Some may or may not apply to you.)

NDREA Coordinators Meeting	Bismarck	Sept. 17-18	8:00-5:00
RRVEC Executive Committee Meeting	GFEC	September 20	4:00-6:00
RRVEC Governing Board Meeting	GFEC	October 4	4:00-6:00
RRVEC Administrators Meeting	GFEC	October 10	1:00-3:00

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RRVEC Administrative Board Meeting
Meeting Agenda---January 9, 2008
1:00-3:00 PM
Grand Forks Education Center

Present: Frank Schill – Cavalier, Marcia Hall – Central Valley, Hy Schlieve – Drayton, Andy Currie – Edinburg, Brandon Lunak – Emerado, Merlin Dahl – Finley-Sharon, Gaillard Peltier – Fordville-Lankin, Jack Maus – Grafton, Ron Gruwell – Grand Forks, Mike Bitz – Hillsboro, Roger Abbe – Larimore/Midway, Michael Bradner – May-Port CG, Harold Mach – Minto, Jeff Carpenter– North Border, Kevin Coles – Northwood, Kirk Ham – Park River, Larry Durand – St. Thomas, Jerry Bartholomay – Thompson, John Oistad – Valley, Dr. Barbara Combs – UND, Dena Larson, Upper Valley Spec Ed, Tom Cummings – Pembina Spec Ed, Mark Wagner – North Valley Career Tech, Annette Schmid – NE Tech Prep, Judy Streifel-Reller – RRVEC Coordinator, Kathy Lundeen – RRVEC Adm. Asst.

Absent: Mary Geffre – Mayville State, Dr. Tom Geffre – Mayville State, Dr. Kent Hjelmstad - UND., Mary Stammen – Griggs/Steele, Trail Spec Ed, Kevin Rogers – Hatton, Richard Ray – Manvel, Ron Thompson – Nash

Regular Report Items:

Item	Reporting		
Welcome & Agenda Review Roger Abbe called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm He indicated that he would add Laurie Robinson to the agenda under unfinished business.	Roger Abbe, Chair		
12/12/07 Meeting Minutes (Approval) John Oistad made a motion to approve the minutes for 12/12/07 as presented. Seconded by Frank Schill; motion carried. M/S/C	Roger Abbe		
12/31/07 Budget Report (Approval) Judy Streifel-Reller reviewed the budget. Hy Schlieve made a motion to approve the 12/31/07 budget report as presented. Seconded by Ron Gruwell; motion carried. M/S/C	Roger Abbe		
RRVEC 2007-08 Accountability Report Jack Maus requested an addition for January report for Grafton. There should be a checkmark for Rachel's Challenge.	Judy Streifel-Reller		
RRVEC Executive Committee Updates (info) Roger Abbe, Joe DeFoe and Jerry Bartholomay are working on a new job description for the RRVEC Coordinator position within the next two weeks and will have it ready by the February meeting.	Roger Abbe		

Unfinished Business:

Instructional Leadership Workshop - February 15, 2008 Laurie Robinson presented a handout to the Administrative board members. She briefly explained the workshop. The Instructional Leadership Workshop will be held on February 15, 2008. This workshop is for administrators and teacher leaders. You can save \$25.00 if you register by January 18, 2008. PRISM credit is available. Laurie briefly talked about the speakers and their focus on grading and differentiation.	Laurie Robinson		
NDREA Topics (information) a. Strategic Plan---Draft #2 Judy Streifel-Reller stated that she proceeded with bringing requested changes of Strategic Plan – Draft #2 to the NDREA meeting following the recommendations of the Administrative Board meeting held in December. Our board was the only one to request change. The Governing Board did not do anything with the fiscal note aspect. They recommended proceeding on drafting legislation. The plan was presented and approved at the Governing Board meeting on January 3, 2008. We will know more in February about the reaction of other NDREA governing boards. Jennifer Johnson is anxious on getting going to draft legislation. Roger commented that the Legislative Interim Committee (LIC) is the most controversial part of this plan.	Judy Streifel-Reller & Roger Abbe		
RRVEC Committee Report (information) a. Professional Development Mike Bradner stated that the Staff Development Committee met this morning discussing the August Inservice and a long range plan. Hopefully, we will have a long term plan and model to present to the board in March. Keynote presenters will be Jack Berkemeyer and Deb Silvers. We are looking for additional presenters. Following the August inservice there will follow-up during the year with related topics. Judy Streifel-Reller handed out the	Mike Bradner		

<p>approved budget draft schedule.</p> <p>RRVEC Governance Structure (discussion)</p> <p>a. Feedback from Governing Board</p> <p>Roger Abbe stated that Dr. Kent Hjelmstad's discussion went well at the Governing Board meeting held on January 3. He felt that there is a consensus that the Governing Board is like a rubber stamp. Several board members indicated that they would rather serve on a committee where we can accomplish things. Roger Abbe stated that Dr. Hjelmstad did an excellent job of presenting. There is a great deal of interest in letting districts choose who will serve either the Superintendent or a board member. Judy Streifel-Reller stated that the conversation was about efficiency and democracy. The messenger was the right person. Bottom line they would still like to see something taken into account regarding the travel aspect by conducting meetings (i.e.do through ITV). Roger Abbe commented that Jennifer Johnson in the beginning was real hard core about having board members serve on the Governing board. She has had a change of heart; she is realizing that the way to get this accomplished for students is by serving on a committee. Next steps: Get the LIC committee going, and put together changes in the legislation. Governing Board members will go back to their boards and discuss it with them and report back at their March meeting</p>	<p>Dr. Kent Hjelmstad</p>	
<p>Vision & Dental Insurance Opportunity (information)</p> <p>Roger Abbe visited with Russ. Roger suggested we do something similar with what we are doing with mentoring meeting this month. He would like to have the BC/BS representative here for the meeting next month. The plan is to have the RRVEC as a group for vision and dental insurance.</p>	<p>Roger Abbe</p>	

New Business:

<p>RRVEC Committee Report (Decision)</p> <p>a. Data Analysis Update & request for funding</p> <p>Brandon Lunak briefed the board on the Data Analysis meeting. We discussed a common assessment goal for RRVEC. We would like to see our building level principals be the communicator of that information. They would become the experts that we could go to for answering our questions as well as Darin King. There is a two strand approach to this: teachers and administrators. The NWEA workshop is being held on January 23, 2008. We are requesting to send five principals at \$300/person. These five people would meet with Darin King and other Grand Forks Public Schools building principals on August 13. The principals would serve as leaders for their teachers. It then would be furthered enhanced and sustained October–January. Hy Schlieve commented that this is taking it to the next level. We train principals by the August date and then they go back to their prospective schools. Brandon Lunak stated that a survey monkey will be sent out within the next 2 weeks to all teachers asking for feed back on the use of assessment, etc. Some administrators voiced concerns about professional development and its long term sustainability. Mike Bitz made a motion to fund the five principals to attend the January 23rd Stepping Stones training at \$300/person. Seconded by Merlin Dahl; motion carried. M/S/C Judy Streifel-Reller will send out the announcement. The five spots will be selected by regions. Brandon Lunak requested Superintendents to send anyone interested to Judy Streifel-Reller.</p>	<p>Brandon Lunak</p>	
<p>Lead Administrator & Coordinator Updates (information)</p> <p>Judy announced that the GF Special Education Unit has the following sets of books we use for staff development. These are new or slightly used (not written in), still being sold in current catalogs for \$30-\$45. They will sell any book for \$10. Please make checks out to "Grand Forks Special Education Unit" and email Diane Schuster to order. Contact Diane at diane.schuster@gfschools.org or via phone at 746-2205, ext 109.</p> <p>Here's what we have available:</p> <p><u>"How to Reach and Teach ADD/ADHD Children"</u> by Sandra Rief Practical Techniques, strategies, and interventions for helping children with attention problems and hyperactivity</p> <p><u>"Classroom Instruction that Works"</u> Robert Marzano et al. Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement</p> <p><u>"A Handbook for Classroom Instruction that Works"</u> by Robert Marzano et al-reviews the research base for the instructional strategies presented and guide you through each strategy. Worksheets, blackline masters and other materials included. Companion to text above.</p> <p><u>"Teaching Teens with ADD and ADHD"</u> by Chris A. Zeigler Dendy - 75 summaries of key issues related to attention deficit disorders and school success (only 4 copies available)</p>	<p>Roger Abbe & Judy Streifel-Reller</p>	

RRVEC Mentoring Committee to meet immediately following the administrators meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: (Some may or may not apply to you.)

RRVEC Executive Committee	January 24	4:00-6:00 PM	GFEC
RRVEC Staff Development Committee	February 13	9:00-11:00 AM	GFEC
RRVEC Administrative meeting	February 13	1:00-3:00 PM	GFEC
RRVEC Alternative Education Committee	February 13	3:30-4:30 PM	GFEC
NDREA Coordinators/Lead Adm	February 21	10:00-4:00	Bismarck
RRVEC Executive Committee	February 28	4:00-6:00 PM	GFEC
RRVEC Governing Board	March 6	4:00-6:00 PM	GFEC

RRVEC Staff Development Committee Meeting
February 13, 2008, 9:00 – 11:20 a.m.
GFEC Computer Lab

Members Present: Richard Ray, Merlin Dahl, Brandon Lunak, Claudia Thompson, Colleen Schumacher, Dr. Tom Geffre, Tom Cummings, Ex-Officio Judy Streifel-Reller, Kathy Lundeen

Members Absent: Dr. Barbara Combs, Mike Bradner

August '08 planning – Claudia Thompson

- **Budget Implications** - Judy reflected on the budget implications for the August 2008 planning. The Chester Fritz quoted us an incorrect amount.
- Elementary focus, behavioral management 1.5 hour presentation that would support the K-5 area. Needs 3 focus areas.

Speakers:

- Tom Six under RTI Educator for 20 years. Masters focus on implementing RTI . He is finding success with the program. He submitted his stipend amount which includes speaking, travel, mileage, meals and lodging. (1.5 hour session)
- David Saxsberg, Elementary Principal (have in the wings) RTI Secondary
- Linda Jenkins has been contacted.
- Annette Schmid, NE Career & Tech (possibility for the counselor session or another option)
- Jack Birkemeyer – Behavioral Management. Expertise in middle school
Need 3 focus areas – *Survey Monkey (6 choices) from elementary teachers*
- Mike Pyle, Elementary Counselor & Kathy Pyle, 5th Grade Teacher - “Love and Logic” making it a school wide model. Classroom teachers are familiar. Brief intro on the 9 essentials. No stipend. Short assessment.
- Deb Silvers

Brandon Lunak talked about focusing on the K-5 audience. Data Analysis Committee met yesterday. We talked about adding a strand related to MAP Testing. We were wondering if it is too late to add at this point or if NWEA workshop would be added at a later date. Judy stated that we would take the data from Differentiated Instruction and drill deeper. Give teachers practical application for using MAP data. Work with grades 3-6. K-2 would have other choices. Use MAP data to incorporate differentiated instruction. We would offer it under the TBD slot and the K-5 would already be at the Alerus. Judy would change the title and the printout.

Brandon questioned administrators if this appeals to the group. Merlin Dahl depends on how in depth. It may be generic as our groups are on different levels. Judy stated that somebody from Bismarck would be contacted. We had an 88% return on the MAP survey. Differentiation is the area that they want to see as the focus. Discussion followed:

- Crisis counseling – survey the counselors possibly
- Integrate the parent piece and this would filter through the schools.
- Needs assessment after August in-service (Survey monkey)

Discussion followed on bringing the Northern districts back into the group:

- How do we bring back the northern districts? We are starting to get piece-mealed off.
- Would it be helpful if you sent a survey, compile send another survey and keep people involved.
- Walsh/Pembina did their own in-services before. They don't like our topics and don't want to travel.
- They like the smaller break out sessions and their follow up in January.

Dr. Tom Geffre, Mayville State University presented an on campus plan sponsored by Mayville State University to use for follow-up of the August in-service. Mayville State University would provide:

- Breakout sessions
- Facilitators

Book Study suggestion i.e. Each semester have some suggested dates. Limit the time so it wouldn't be a burden for districts to find subs. This same plan could be implemented on the North and South section. We set up facilitators that would literally go to North and South. Discussion followed with the following points:

- Positive side is sending them to different areas and giving them a choice.
- Addresses the ongoing part.
- Calendars are an issue.

Committee comments on Dr. Geffre's plan:

- Do this one time and then use ITV.
- Topics would be based on Differentiated Instruction and Behavioral Management
- Teachers would be surveyed. Survey monkeys month after August In-service with topics of focus Differentiated Instruction and Behavioral Management
- Plan handed out at the August In-service (this is what we are going to focus on this year)
- If we go to MAP testing then sign up for Knowledge Academy. Dr. Geffre would possibly have staff at Mayville to facilitate or open this to somebody within the group.
- Addresses item #4 in the plan
- Survey administrators on how we want to do it. Follow-up sessions should be whole day as difficult to find subs for half a day when you are a rural district.
- PRISM credit is a necessity (Mayville currently gives undergraduate credit) (It would be helpful to get graduate credit)
- Concerns on North not participating

Judy commented "I think the organization has the opportunity to meet the needs based on what administrators have requested. The REA operates on opt in and opt out basis. If we are needs based, that is the way the organization has to focus. We are looking for systemic change, long term involvement and have to hope that the others come into the fold. We need to stay true to form and have a common message, but if they find another way that fills their needs they can opt out." Tom, the plan you presented today might change their minds. Committee member commented as long as it is well thought out and well designed.

- K-5 B. Mgmt session (three topic focus)
- MAP added under K-5
- Communications timeline
- No registration process
- Plan to inform teachers mid-April about our August in-service (will send them a schedule)
- Dress in layers
- Lunch on their own
- Master plan is needs based with follow up items to share early part of school year
- PRISM credit from each district's PRISM submitted plan
- Comfortable with the plan presented by Dr. Thomas Geffre

Updated handouts need to be presented to administrators today.

Three-year plan---Menu approach

- Reports by designated area---dates, resources (\$ & time)
- Inclusion of administrators, teachers, non-certified
- Debbie Silvers book purchase

JSR Draft plan:

- Wish list under each category.

- Comprehensive plan to implement in our REA.
- Aspect to look at is the cost. Stipends, supplies, materials and coordination and a timeline.
- Add 10th piece - non-certified staff. We are part of the team that brings education to the students...we want to be part of the change so we can support the administrators, teachers, para-professionals, secretaries, bus drivers and custodians. Two sets of technicals, para's fit with teachers. Group agreed there are all kinds of topics for non-certified staff. This is the reason we started an REA because everyone was struggling to get the focus done.
- Member attended Walsh/Pembina area workshop. Breakout sessions (15 minute blocks)...autism, A.E.D. They have a plan and broke it into a mini workshop.
- Two tier approach, new users that come on board, utilize GF and Darin King's knowledge for data coordinating. He's willing to take the bull by the horn and do at no cost. We are looking at picking dates.
- Communicating MAP results with parents and staff. Teachers communicate to parents only what they understand. Two different teachers may communicate in different way. What is the proper way to communicate these results to staff, parents and students? One of the topics for leadership...may be more in October.

Study Groups – Judy stated that in RESP (Dickinson) they love the study proposals and are very highly regarded. Prof Learning Community (PLC):

- Groups could be at any school
- Publish list of what to host
- Theme Differentiated Instruction
- Study groups take place at Mayville
- Book groups
- What is the best way to challenge our gifted students?
- Examine issues, teacher dialogue
- Teachers could collaborate and do lesson plans
- Compile a written report to lend it to get graduate credit.
- Teachers share a commitment to the theme.
- Systematic lesson study – everyone comes together and develops one lesson and goes back to classroom and implements.
- Video conferencing
- Useful for schools to list what each school already has.....study groups could borrow.
- Theme based study group. Study group would be one pool of teachers working in the consortium.
- Facilitation (someone from the University)

Few More Comments: Dr. Tom Geffre

- Concern is release time.
- Suggesting and laying out a plan for early release dates.
- What we really need is legislative leeway to do this. We need more time for professional development without adding more contract days.
- Facilitators need to have a syllabus, and then teachers have to have lesson plans.

JSR the draft is a 3-year plan.

School Improvement Camps: Judy - You bring your document in, work on the components...you are able to gain synergy. Discussion followed with following points:

- Take advantage of resource people.
- Districts develop their template and then come back to committee.
- REA covers the cost of facilitators.
- Good topic and keep it in the plan

DPI Training - Judy stated that we would host. No concerns from the group.

Technology In-services (Delivered via ITV) - Tom Cummings: Spoke with Jodie French from Edutech. What they did in Dickinson based on popular topic edutech set it up. This printout is from their website and listed as the current topics. Any additional they would be willing to develop. Comments:

- Technology should be used across all grade levels.
- Opportunities for grades K-12.
- August workshop rank those topics based on responses
- Set up with Edutech to host or through ITV. (John Skarrie from Distance Ed)
- Teacher prep and in-service.
- Wanting to know because technology there is a new test a new measure all the 8th grade tech and competency that is putting this together....pilot this spring.
- Tech group are willing to fit what we want i.e. video, cameras on desktop used for meetings.
- Good idea.
- Do survey of topics, rank them, and put on schedule for the year.

Career Ed clusters - Merlin Dahl reported.

- Read minutes from the education committee.
- Helps students figure out the direction they will go after high school.
- Diplomas will be part of the curriculum plan.
- 2011 will need more credits to graduate.
- Core 40 comes out of the commission through the LIC.
- Will be additional math and sciences.
- Need to keep this as part of the plan.
- Every student will need a learning plan.

Deb Silver's Book – Judy reported that MDEC is offering the book for sale at half price for a cost of \$14.45/book. It is an easy read, pertains to grades K-12, teachers love her book and love her. Richard Ray recommended Judy purchase 23 books one for each district.

Report to Administrative Board - Mike Bradner is not here today to submit a report, but is requesting presentation of the draft, Dr. Geffre's follow-up plan and Judy's plan for the August 2008 In-service. Tom Cummings will report at RRVEC Administrative Board meeting today.

Meet next month: March 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. in the Computer Lab at GFEC.

Red River Valley Education Cooperative----Early History

The Red River Valley Education Cooperative (RRVEC) recently formed through signing a Joint Powers Agreement in June 2005 in an attempt to improve the area's educational opportunities. Through this agreement, the RRVEC is able to provide its' 24 area school district members with an approach that effectively uses the current resources found at each individual school and looks to expand other services based on a recently conducted needs assessment. There are six cooperating members that support the purpose and the mission of the JPA. Those members include Griggs-Steele-Traill Special Ed. Unit, Mayville State University, North Valley Career Tech Center, Pembina Special Educ.Co-op, University of North Dakota, Upper Valley Special Education. By using specific strengths at one school to improve varying needs found at another school, the cooperative is able to capitalize on key areas that need improvement within the district schools, and will ultimately be able to provide students with the best educational experience possible.

Our target market makes up a six-county area which consists of Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Steele, Traill, and Cass counties. The RRVEC and its member school districts comprise 6,467 square miles in the northeastern corner of North Dakota. The 24 area school districts within the RRVEC include Cavalier, Central Valley, Drayton, Edinburg, Emerado Elementary, Finley-Sharon, Fordville-Lankin, Grafton, Grand Forks, Hatton, Hillsboro, Larimore, Manvel, May-Port CG, Midway, Minto, Nash, North Border, Northern Cass, Northwood, Park River, St. Thomas, Thompson, and Valley.

Based on academic enrollment for the 2005-2006 school year, the RRVEC consists of 15,076 students, ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. Currently, the total number of lead administrators is 22, the number of principles is 62, the number of teachers 890 and the number of non-classified staff is 282.

One of nine regional education associations (REAs) in the state, the RRVEC provides alternative resources for schools facing consolidation and declining enrollment. If you would like to learn more about the RRVEC and its mission, or events and opportunities it provides, you can visit the website at <http://rrvec.ndjpa.com> or call (701) 746-2205 ext. 167.