

TO: Mr. Kenner and the members of the TCBOE

FROM: Connie Wofford, Principal of TCMS

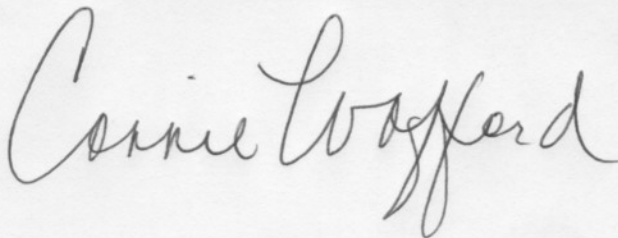
DATE: August 30, 2008

SUBJECT: TCMS participation in the Literacy Grant at GRREC

We, TCMS, request permission to participate in the GRREC "Literacy Learning" grant sponsored by GRREC for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. Attached, you will find a brief overview of the grant for the 2008-2009 school year. It includes a three day Content Literacy institute and 6 days for training for Professional Learning Communities (PLC'S).

Due to your work on reading across the curriculum last school year, this would give TCMS staff an additional opportunity to collaborate on reading curriculum which in turn will enhance student achievement in reading. The only cost to our district (to TCMS) will be travel for the 9 days and meals for the participants. This cost will be paid for through PD and SBDM funds from Todd County Middle school. Also, due to the PLC commitment from the grant, this will save the District \$1,200.

Thank you for your time in considering this excellent opportunity for TCMS staff members to participate in the "Literacy Grant".

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Wofford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the main body of the letter.

Wofford, Connie

From: Storey, Liz (GRREC) [liz.storey@grrec.ky.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 10:06 AM

To: Rich, Alma; Fisher, Ricky; Crews, Cortni; Gedling, Kathy - Principal; Jennings, Jeff; Crume, Jennifer - CVMS; Settle, Gates - DCMS; Mather, Beth; Blain, Jim - Principal; Biever, Gina; Bennett, Jama; Brown, Elisa; Nelson, Barrett; Trotter, Allen - Metcalfe (MCMS); Thompson, Amy; Wofford, Connie; Renick, Tom

Cc: Rodgers, Johna (GRREC); Alexander, Mindy (GRREC); Thompson, Sheila (GRREC)

Dear Principals,

Recently GRREC was awarded a grant to continue the work we began last year with Adolescent Literacy. This new grant will have a Middle School focus and will establish "model schools" for literacy in our region. Our hope is that these schools will become centers of excellence for reading across the content areas, much like the ones that have been established in Denver, Colorado by an organization called the Public Education Business Coalition (PEBC). A large component of the 2008-09 training will be provided by staff developers from PEBC, arguably the nation's leading researchers and practitioners of best practices in adolescent literacy.

In the coming year, Year 1 of the new initiative, we will establish one Model Middle School, Bazzell Middle School in Allen County. An additional 11 middle schools around the GRREC region will be "Literacy Learning" schools. As the work continues in Year 2 of the grant and beyond, the 11 Literacy Learning schools will have an opportunity to increase the level of training and support to their schools and some of them may choose to become Model Schools. Model schools will receive intensive coaching to prepare them to become "demonstration sites" which are visited by middle school teachers from across the region.

Because of your school's involvement with the literacy work last year, we are inviting you to become one of the Literacy Learning schools. Accepting the invitation means staff from your school will participate in multiple days of training this year at no cost to your school except for substitute teacher cost.

However, we want to make you aware of the training obligations that come with this offer and in particular, make you aware of the expectation that you, the principal, will participate in all of the training days without exception. A brief summary of the training timeline for 2008-09 is as follows:

September 8:

Middle school principals and two others from their schools (a Teacher Leader and maybe an Assistant Principal) will attend the Literacy Launch, a one-day event in Bowling Green. Participants will receive an overview of the Initiative, will learn more about the PEBC partnership, and will receive an introduction to the "thinking strategies" model that will be the lynchpin for the Initiative, a model which provides students' access to greater comprehension across all content areas.

September 29-30 and February 18

This three-day Content Literacy Institute will be for the Principal and a team of five teachers: one Language Arts, one Social Studies, one Math, one Science and one Special Ed. Training will move deeply into the thinking strategies for comprehension and will help teachers plan instruction that allows even struggling readers to access difficult text.

January 20-21; February 24-25; March 24-25

Because much of the success of the Literacy work will hinge on how it spreads across your faculties in the form of embedded and continuing PD, part of expectation for next year is that your school will participate in the six-day Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Academy. This training will be provided by Solution Tree, the Rick and Becki DuFour group who are leading national consultants in PLC work. For these six days, the principal and only three teachers will be allowed to attend (due to capacity restrictions from Solution Tree). The teachers may be some of the same ones doing the three-day Literacy Institute or they may be different teachers. We will discuss the pros and cons of this during the September 8 Launch.

What we need from you at this point is a simple reply as to whether you will attend the September 8th Literacy

Launch with two others from your school. By attending, you are not obligating yourself to the year's participation; you will learn more information to help you and your team make the best decision about continuing. Shortly after the September 8th Launch, we will be in touch with you to get a final "yes or no" regarding your school's participation.

With a value in professional development of over \$9,000 to your school in 2008-09 alone, this opportunity is one that we know you will consider seriously. We also know, though, that you will have to look at the big picture and determine whether this invitation comes at a good time for your school or not.

Please send me your RSVP reply for attending the September 8th Launch by August 26 (yes or no). Remember that your final decision about 2008-09 full participation will come after September 8. I am out of the office for the remainder of this week but Shelia Thompson, GRREC Adolescent Literacy Specialist, will be glad to provide additional information and answer your questions. Sheila's email is sheila.thompson@grrec.ky.gov

I'll be back in on August 25 and will be checking emails in the meantime.

Thanks.

Liz Storey, Executive Director
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