

Northwest Missouri State University
Board of Regents
Date of Meeting: May 1, 2009

Presenters: Ray Courter, Max Ruhl

Agenda Item: Maryville Schools PDS
Memorandum of Agreement

Background:

Enclosed is a PDF file describing the recommended agreement between Northwest and the Maryville School District. As noted in the first paragraph of the draft agreement, the agreement is between Northwest Missouri State University and the Maryville School District. The agreement has been developed in order to facilitate cooperation and collaboration and to further the potential for development of cooperative activities typically pursued in a professional development school relationship. The agreement recognizes, as well, the extraordinary level of partnering that has characterized the relationship in the past and the large population of pre-service educators regularly completing their clinical supervision (practica, internships and directed teaching) in the Maryville School District.

The preamble portion of the agreement on page one captures the meaning of Professional Development Schools and describes the historic partnership between elements of the Maryville School District and the University which continue to function in concert with the principles of a professional development school model. As stated on page two, the goal of the agreement is to extend the already significant partnering of these two northwest Missouri education institutions, making possible yet greater gains for the students of the Maryville School District, the pre-service educators at Northwest and for constituents and stakeholders in the wider society. The detailed pages of the agreement that follow describe several responsibilities on the part of each party.

Issue:

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the memorandum of agreement between Northwest Missouri State University and the Maryville Public School District.

President's Recommendation:

Recommend approval.

Draft

Draft

Draft

Draft

Draft

Draft

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
AND
THE MARYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This agreement is between Northwest Missouri State University (hereafter Northwest), a public institution of higher education and the Maryville School District (a public school district), both located in Maryville, Missouri. It has been developed in order to facilitate cooperation and collaboration and to further the potential for development of cooperative activities typically pursued in a professional development school relationship. It recognizes, as well, the extraordinary level of partnering that has characterized the relationship in the past and the large population of pre-service educators regularly completing their clinical supervision (practica, internships and directed teaching) in the Maryville School District.

Preamble

Professional Development Schools (PDS's) were initially seriously discussed as a means to better prepare future teachers and support success (including increased P-12 student performance) in the educational reform movement of the early 1990's. Northwest's College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) and the (then) Washington Middle School in the Maryville School District developed such a relationship. This partnership, which continues today, was built around concepts of Professional Development Schools which were codified more explicitly through the work of a Missouri Task Force and the grant funded Missouri Network for Professional Development Schools, in the document [A Strategy for Educational Reform in Missouri \(1997\)](#). It outlined the following four purposes for these partnerships. They are created in order to:

- Offer an exemplary education for K-12 students,
- Offer a superior clinical setting for the preparation of future educators,
- Offer continuous professional development for school and university educators (both teachers and administrators), and that educators might,
- Conduct and share research on exemplary practice in teaching, learning and school leadership.

Since inception of the PDS arrangement with (now) Maryville Middle School, the school's Administrative Advisory Council, where planning is regularly undertaken in order to assure quality in the mutual programming of the partnership, has included a member of the CEHS faculty. As well, the partnership has resulted in cooperative efforts between Northwest and other schools of the District, such as a Reading program conducted at Eugene Field Elementary School, the joint sponsorship of several conferences and most recently the development of a high school to college collaboration, (the Building Bridges program) to promote curriculum alignment in those transition years from public school to college. Maryville School District Superintendent, Dr. Vickie Miller and Northwest President, Dr. Dean L. Hubbard have been instrumental in providing leadership for this effort. Northwest has identified the Building Bridges program as an institutional Strategic Initiative.

The goal of this MOA is to extend the already significant partnering of these two northwest Missouri education institutions, making possible yet greater gains for the students of the Maryville School District, the pre-service educators at Northwest and for constituents and stakeholders in the wider society. Having concluded that their interests are mutually supportive, Northwest and the Maryville School District now agree to:

1. Work cooperatively to offer exemplary educational opportunities to the students of the partner institutions:
 - a. Responsibilities of Northwest:
 1. Develop cooperative processes assuring collaborative review of curriculum and promoting excellence in programming in the area of educator preparation.
 2. Work collaboratively with the Maryville School District as both seek to develop superior assessment processes in professional education.
 3. Provide a ten percent tuition waiver to professional staff in the employ of the Maryville School District.*
 - b. Responsibilities of the Maryville School District:
 1. Work collaboratively with faculty and administration at Northwest to provide input which can shape the University's teacher preparation curricula and offerings.
 2. Work collaboratively with Northwest to provide college planning, admissions, financial aid and other important counseling information and presentations to district students and families.
 3. Contract with Northwest for the provision of all dual credit coursework (as needed), in those areas where the content is available through Northwest.
2. Provide superior Clinical settings for future educators:
 - a. Responsibilities of Northwest:
 1. Work collaboratively with building administrators, providing timely and relevant placement information.
 2. Assign student teachers in appropriate areas of placement and for appropriate timeframes facilitating their certification by the state of Missouri.
 3. Work closely with District cooperating teachers and administrators to assure adequate flow of information and prompt resolution of challenges.
 4. Provide university supervision which meets or exceeds accepted professional standards
 - b. Responsibilities of the Maryville School District:
 1. Work through building leadership to assign student teachers to appropriately certificated and experienced faculty.

* Must have been employed with the school district at least ½ time in a regular position for one year on the first class day.

2. Assign student teachers to the classrooms of high quality/master teachers of the District.
 3. Work closely with university supervisors to ensure the free flow of information and prompt resolution of challenges.
3. Provide superior professional development for the professional education staff of the partners:
- a. Responsibilities of Northwest:
 1. Develop structures enabling collaborative development of coursework and professional development with CEHS faculty and personnel of the Regional Professional Development Center and the Maryville Schools.
 2. Work together to provide cutting edge professional development experiences in the area of technology development and computer based/assisted instruction.
 3. Seek to provide technology resources and professional development which will aid in the provision and delivery of instruction promoting enhanced learning.
 - b. Responsibilities of the Maryville School District:
 1. Seek to collaborate with the educators from Northwest and the Northwest RPDC in establishing mutually beneficial professional development opportunities.
 2. Explore with Northwest and RPDC and RPDC partners professional development to promote cutting edge technology applications and technology resources.
 3. Work with the CEHS to collaboratively develop P-12 assessment processes promoting sharply focused professional development/data based decision making.
4. Other Collaborations:

The partners will pursue joint conduct and sharing of education research focused on exemplary classroom teaching and school building leadership. They will, as well, work together to share and explore opportunities to further develop the technology infrastructure of both partners. Northwest and the Maryville Schools may propose other areas for possible collaboration or cooperation and each party will work in good faith to develop and pursue initiative in those areas that will be to their mutual benefit and to the benefit of their primary customers.

5. General Provisions:
- a. Points of Contact: The point of contact for each Party to oversee and facilitate the implementation of this agreement is as follows:

For Northwest:

*Dr. Max Ruhl, Dean, CEHS
Northwest Missouri State University
800 University Drive
Maryville, Missouri
Office Phone: (660) 562-1778
E-mail: ruhl@nwmissouri.edu*

For Maryville School District:

*Dr. Vickie Miller, Superintendent
Maryville School District
1429 South Munn Ave.
Maryville, Missouri
Office Phone: (660) 562-3255
E-mail: vmiller@maryville.k12.mo.us*

b. Duration and Termination:

1. This Agreement is for a period of five years from its effective date, renewable by mutual agreement of both parties.
2. Either party may terminate this Agreement for convenience, provided that it has given the other Party at least 120 days' prior written notice of its intent to terminate. Notification by facsimile will satisfy the written notice requirement.
3. Termination shall be without penalty to either Party.

This agreement is effective as of the last date of the signatures contained below:

For Northwest:

For Maryville School District:

Dean L. Hubbard, Ph.D.
President

Vickie Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent