



# BT Coordinator News

**SOUTH CENTRAL  
REGION 4  
Martha Anderson**



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REGION 4  
SANDHILLS/  
SOUTH CENTRAL

## BT/IHE Meeting Minutes

**Helpful Website**  
**Regional Ed. Facilitator**  
<http://www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home/>  
**NEXT MEETING DATE**  
**September 12, 2014 @ 9:00**  
**RCS Board of Education**  
 Additional meeting dates:  
 November 14, 2014  
 February 13, 2015  
 April 24, 2015 (delayed due to Easter week)

If you have topics or suggestions for agenda items, please let me know. These are your meetings and I want to make sure we are addressing your needs.

Region 4's Beginning Teacher Coordinators and IHE representatives met on May 23, 2014 in Richmond County. There were 15 people present. At our meeting, Coordinators were reminded to update their BT Plan, adding a statement regarding the mentor's role in observations. This stemmed from the last sentence in policy TCP-A-004 section 4.60 Observations/Evaluations. Revisions must be approved by the local BOE, therefore a due date for sending me the revised plans was set for the end of October, 2014.

LEAs and IHEs had an opportunity to share "success stories" they had

experienced this year. Please see the attached summary to see what was shared.

Antonia Beatty and Bess Shuler shared their impressions of the new module on classroom management. Both had positive comments and indicated the content was strong. They said it was an engaging and interactive module. This module should be ready for release by the end of June. A huge "thank you" goes out to all of you who requested that we provide this module for beginning teachers since this is an area of concern for them, especially lateral entry teachers.

Also, it was decided to continue to meet quarterly. Those in attendance indicated how helpful our meetings are and did not want to reduce the number of meetings. However, we did decide to change our meeting dates due to a conflict with the RESA PD meetings. We discussed meeting on the second or fourth Fridays, and the second Fridays seem to work the best. Please note the meeting dates for the 2014-2015 year in the left hand column.

FYI: a REF planning team is meeting to consider cross-regional meetings and a statewide BT Summit to be held within the next two years.

The following good news was shared:

Deidra Steed: had surgery and is back at work. She is undergoing radiation treatments. Her daughter was married on May 24th!

Beth Lee: husband received a good report from Duke. His battle with pancreatic cancer has been won!

Bess Shuler: son was married on May 17th!

Martha: celebrated her 3rd year "on the job" anniversary with everyone on Friday.



## TNL and the End of the Year

Several minutes were spent on issues/concerns about TNL and what should be saved/printed for BT files at the end of the year. The Record of Teacher Activity page does not have a space for comments, so if there was a problem,

principals should comment on the observation document. Observations don't have a print option, but the summary and RoTA can be printed. There have been issues with dates due to the workflow process. PDPs are a concern: if mentors

make comments/changes, then the date changes. One LEA learned, if you click on comment box, but don't actually make a comment, it will allow it to move forward. Suggestion: save BT documents to a PDF and then to a jump drive.

## IHE Success Stories and Thoughts



St. Andrews Presbyterian



UNC-P

### ST. Andrews Presbyterian

St. Andrews expressed their gratitude for inviting them to our meetings. They enjoy working very closely with LEA contacts and partnering with them to place their student teachers. Currently, they have a partnership with Scotland County Schools, but would like to branch out into other LEAs. St. Andrews is adding several areas to their licensure programs. They provide seminars for student

teachers and they reach out to their graduates for feedback on the St. Andrews' program. The group was thanked for accepting their candidates into the LEAs. Due to their attend-

**"We wouldn't have a student teacher program without the LEAs."**

ance at our meetings, they began a Teacher Assistant Cohort in Lee County to help grow their own teachers, thus reducing teacher turnover. They offered to have an organizational meeting with other LEAs who might be interested in doing the same.

*We appreciate St. Andrews' attendance at our regional meetings and look forward to next year.*

### UNC-Pembroke

UNC-Pembroke is in its third year of Project Prep. Through this program they have provided specialists to work with the LEAs who joined the grant-funded program. They have supported approximately 60 beginning teachers with iPad minis that have been helpful meeting the technology needs of the teachers. Next year is the last year of funding from the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation. UNC-P has

also been involved in Project Ready for Success with Bladen County. This program centers on building literacy skills in the classroom.

This year they expect to have 50-60 graduates who will be entering the field of education.

Their gratitude was expressed for all the LEAs who accept their students for field experience requirements, internships, and student teaching.



*We appreciate UNC-P's attendance at our regional meetings and look forward to next year.*

## LEA Success Stories and Thoughts

**Bladen:** Antonia shared that, although she was anxious about the BTSP monitoring visit, it was not stressful at all. Antonia also spoke to the importance of encouraging and working with BTs on how to ask questions of administration, follow up with how and when to share artifacts with principals, and making sure they understand how to maintain an appropriate level of professionalism.

**Scotland:** Sandra shared how this had been a growth year for her; looking at the BT program from a coordinator's point of view and how that

differs from a principal's point of view. She spoke of the importance of spending time with BTs and creating that personal, as well as, professional relationship with them. Sandra said when Scotland rolled out School Net, they rolled it out to BTs first before veteran teachers. This gave the BTs an opportunity for leadership among their peers.

**Anson:** Heather said she and Patricia were working over the summer to update their program. They utilized the Diversity training and participated in Project Prep. The Peer Reviews and BTSP visits were learning experiences.

**Lee:** Patricia shared a book titled Not Everyone Gets a Trophy. She suggested it as one to read based on the current generation's perspective. Her biggest "ah ha" this year was the need to recognize the BTs' strengths and capitalize on those. The BT monthly session that received the most positive feedback was the one in which the BTs presented a "best practice" to the group. Next year, a BT will present at each meeting so the attendees will leave with a new idea or strategy to use in their classrooms.

## LEA Success Stories and Thoughts

**Hoke:** Beth shared how impressed she was with their BTs. Many have become teacher leaders regardless of their years of experience. Hoke Co. has implemented Literacy Design Collaboration (LDC, MDC). This initiative has improved the productivity of PLCs. After surveying her BTs, Beth is going to reinstate after school meetings, per their requests.

**Richmond:** Bess spoke about the strong PD department that RCS has and how the BTs have benefited from the many professional development opportunities they have. She also shared how RCS had been part of the Project Prep program through UNC-P. The Prep Specialist arranged for classroom visits/observations for BTs, attended with them, and then held a debriefing session afterwards. This

resulted in a true learning experience for the BTs and many were able to implement strategies they observed in their own classrooms.

**"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others."  
Unknown**

## LEA Success Stories and Thoughts

**Moore:** Amanda told about the PD offerings for BTs in MCS. They had at least 10 sessions for them. One was a Digital Learning session using Google.Docs, Discovery Ed and Edmodo. They also had a digital module using Articulate. This platform is interactive and has multiple resources for teachers. Next year, the BT 3s are going to participate in Instructional Talk-Throughs; observations then

have a debriefing time to unpack the strategies, styles, and methods the teachers were using in their classrooms.

**Columbus:** Cassie spoke about their partnership with UNC-W and Sumer Lewis. She had three BTs who were honored with Promising Leadership Awards and they will present for the new teachers in the fall. Cassie also shared that the principals are very

supportive of the BTs and will contact her if there is a particular need or situation that needs to be addressed. She also said that she reviews observations and if she sees a pattern emerging in the comment section, she schedules a conference with the principal and/or teacher to see what additional support he/she might need.

*"Principals are the KEY to the retention of beginning teachers."*