



News

Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs Newsletter
Steve Allen, Editor

Here is all the latest news from the world of alternative education in the state of Minnesota. You can also check out our website at <http://www.maapmn.org/> for more information.

President's Message September 2017

By Cliff Skagen

Plans are well under way for the 2018 MAAP Annual Conference. The theme is Lifelong Learning: We Inspire the Desire! Chris Bodick and his conference committee team have been planning an incredible number of enlightening presentations from practitioners and keynote speakers to socializing and networking opportunities.

As I began my new leadership position with Twin Cities Academy this summer, I contemplated how every year is like a new job with new students, new staff, sometimes new administration and new initiatives. We all can use this time of professional "rebirth" to embrace new concepts, practice newly acquired skills and learn additional techniques.

I also reflected upon the amazing growth of MAAP since its inception. From a small group of alternative educators to a substantial organization that brings professional development, networking and events such as MAAP STARS to schools throughout the State of Minnesota. In addition, there are countless charter schools and online programs offering alternative education.

With all of this change comes change to legislation and policy. Nickel B, NCLB

and other interesting names (some derogatory) has moved on and has been replaced by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Last Monday, September 18, 2017, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) submitted the state ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education; the

US DOE now has 120 days to respond to the State plan. The plan has been posted the on MDE website. In addition to the State plan, MDE also posted a letter from the Commissioner outlining changes made to the State plan based on public comments, as well as an updated executive summary.

This is where MAAP and you can come together to learn more about the plan and get involved to ensure that the needs of alternative education are heard loud and clear. There will be a couple phases as the plan moves forward and it has been presented as an ever changing document. This is important work that we need to engage all members of MAAP in to help our schools and students achieve their best.

MDE Update

By Mary Barrie

We had a great turnout for both the Online and Digital Learning Seminar and the SAAP Summer Seminar. We just seems to struggle with the timing - many districts have mandatory train-

ings during that time that staff have to go to so changing the time frame is something we need to look at. If you have thoughts on this please let me know. We are also trying to make these as relevant as possible for you all so any suggestions on sessions we should add - or cut.

Sally Reynolds is our new Alternative and Extended Learning Specialist!

As a native Minnesotan, Sally brings rich and meaningful experiences in public education to the team at MDE. She attended the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus to earn her B.A., and went on to complete a Masters in Social Work Administration from Augsburg University. She completed Minnesota certification as a

Contents

- President's Message September 2017 1
- MDE Update 1
- MAAP 101 3
- MAAP Administrative Workshop 3
- 35th Annual State Conference! 4
- Nikhil Goyal 5
- Transforming Schools 5
- Call for Exhibitors and Vendors 5
- E-lympics 5
- MAAP Website 6

K-12 Principal at St. Mary's University. Sally worked in Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) for a total of ten years, starting as a School Social Worker with a focus on special education coordination and compliance. Her work shifted to a district team that focused on supporting the MPS Contract Alternative Schools, which included close collaboration with the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP). As an administrator, Sally facilitated a cooperative program between MPS, Hennepin County, community service providers, and Intermediate District 287. This initiative focused on achieving improved outcomes for our most at-risk student population. Sally has served as an assistant principal the last nine years in urban, public high schools. She is returning from Charlotte, North Carolina, where she has been living and working for the past five years.

Sally counts as her strengths a keen understanding of alternative instructional environments and an intense dedication to struggling students. She is a believer in holistic systems to educate our students and that quality data collection and analysis are a means to that end. Sally is excited to collaborate with and provide support to the Alternative and Extended Learning programs of Minnesota to ensure those opportunities for Minnesota's students.

You can contact Sally at sally.reynolds@state.mn.us.

MAAP STARS Report By Patti Haasch



Hope your school year is off to a GREAT start!

The calendar of events for this year is set. The three state-wide STARS events are:

- October 25 & 26, 2017
Fall Leadership Conference
Lake Beauty Camp Long Prairie, MN
- February 28, 2018
STARS Capital For A Day
State Capital, St. Paul, MN
- April 10 & 11, 2018
Spring Events Conference
Doubletree Hotel Bloomington, MN

All schools/programs are encouraged to have a STARS Chapter. The yearly membership fee is \$160 to participate. To plan your STARS activities, check out the resources available on the MAAP website. You will find both the MAAP STARS Chapter Manual and the 2017-2018 STARS Spring Events Manual. Each contains many ideas of how to start and/or strengthen your chapter. You can also "Like" the MAAP Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/maapmn>) to get the latest updates. There is now page on our website on [How To Start A MAAP STARS Chapter](#). Check it out.

The Fall Leadership Conference offers team building and leadership training sessions for both students and staff. Each program can send up to 5 students

who demonstrate leadership potential along with one or two advisors to learn all about STARS. One student per school can be a candidate to run for a MAAP STARS officer position. Elections are held during the fall conference and students elect the STARS State Leadership Team Officers. Officer training will be held November 16 & 17 at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville. Registration information and officer candidate application forms are posted on the MAAP website for the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference, October 25 & 26 at Lake Beauty Camp in Long Prairie.

We're hoping more regions will hold MAAP STARS regional events as well. If you need help or information feel free to contact me: Patti Haasch, pjhaasch@yahoo.com; 612-751-2490. Please add the STARS state-wide events to your school calendar and make plans for your school to participate in all three MAAP STARS state-wide events!

MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference Is In October! Registration Due Oct. 6!!

Our Fall Conference is for student leaders, along with their advisors, who want to learn more about MAAP STARS so they will provide leadership when they get back to their school to develop or enhance their own local MAAP STARS Chapter. Registration begins at 4:00 PM on Wednesday and we'll end by 2:30 PM on Thursday.

There's a number of changes to our MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference this year:

- #1 We're holding it earlier than usual: October 25 & 26, 2017
- #2 We're at a different location: Lake Beauty Camp in Long Prairie, MN
- #3 There's some pre-conference activities being offered by Lake Beauty Camp ~

- » A. Horseback Riding for \$15/person; 3 time slots: 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 3-4pm
- » B. Climbing Tower & Zip Line costs \$5/person between 1 – 4 pm
- #4 The number of students is lower from 6 to 5, but each school can still have one student be an officer candidate for the State Leadership Team
- #5 The costs is \$45/person which includes overnight housing (bring your own bedding) and two meals on Thursday

Registration packets are available on the MAAP Website. Registration for your school is due *Friday, October 6!!* We must have all the information into us by then so that we and the Lake Beauty Camp staff can plan for everyone to have a successful conference. That includes: (1) your completed “MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference Registration” sheet which lists the students and Advisors coming, any special diet needs, select the pre-conference activities you plan to participate in, and give us your housing preference. That form can be faxed to: 320-529-4327 or mailed to: Konie Brudwick, St. Cloud McKinley ALC, 216 8th Avenue N, Waite Park, MN 56387. Registration fees are non-refundable after October 6. Checks are made out to MAAP STARS.

We will be selling MAAP STARS t-shirts for \$10, Caps & Beanies for \$5 each and Hooded Sweatshirts for \$15 so bring your money if you're interested in buying any. Come join us for an AWESOME conference to start off your new school year by building a wonderful MAAP STARS Chapter at your school!

MAAP 101

By Greg Zimmerman



Once again, the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs is proud to present MAAP 101. We are very excited about the slate of presenters who will be sharing with us this year. If you have any new or relatively new staff in your school, I highly recommend MAAP 101 for them. They will have the opportunity to attend sessions that align with what alternative and innovative educational practices are all about. They will also have time to make lasting connections with others from similar schools and gain the support they need to feel confident in their roles. I also recommend MAAP 101 to any educator out there who could use a reminder of why we do this, what MAAP is all about, and the network that exists to provide continued support. Please join us as we discuss parent and student perspectives, strategies to avoid burn out, project based learning, increasing expectations for students, MAAP STARS, tools you can bring back to class on Monday, as well as anything else you might bring up.

This year's event will be held on Friday, October 13, at Ivan Sand Community High School in Elk River, MN. The cost is \$50. The registration form can be found at www.maapmn.org under the conferences tab. To reserve your spot, please RSVP to Greg Zimmerman. gzimmerman@pillagercharter.org Hope to see you there!

MAAP Administrative Workshop

By Steve Allen

The MAAP Annual Administrative Workshop is scheduled for Friday, November 3rd at MDE. This workshop is intended to allow practitioners time to listen to and discuss administrative issues with colleagues and professional resources. Each year, we always attempt to recruit presenters based upon the desires of our members. I'm really excited about the presenters that we have coming this year. Take a look at the agenda and registration materials listed below:

Agenda –

- I. 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM – Registration and Coffee
- II. 8:00 AM – 8:10 AM – Welcome and Introduction – Cliff Skagen
- III. 8:10 AM – 8:30 AM – Current Issues and Concerns – Mary Barrie and Sally Reynolds
- IV. 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Update on Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Michael Diedrich
- V. 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Getting Involved – Representative David Bly
- VI. 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM – Break and Networking
- VII. 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – Breakout Session A: Technology to Assist the School Administrator – Brady Baxter
- VIII. 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – Breakout Session B: Student Reporting and School Finance – Kelly Wosika
- IX. 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – Breakout Session C: More Specifics and Details of ESSA – Michael Diedrich

- X. 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – Breakout Session D: Mental Health Student Services and Resources – Julie Beaufeaux
- XI. 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM – Break and Networking
- XII. 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM – Breakout Session A: Making Special Education Work in Alternative Education – Scott Manni
- XIII. 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Breakout Session B: McKinney Vento Law and Academic Interventions for Homeless Students – Anne McInerney
- XIV. 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Breakout Session C: Regional Centers of Excellence Services – MDE RCE Staff
- XV. 1:00 PM – 12:00 PM – Breakout Session D: To Be Determined
- 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM – Lunch
- XVI. 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM – Breakout Session A: Implementing Project Based Learning for the Long Haul – Paul Jaeger
- XVII. 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM – Breakout Session B: A Discussion on Improving Student Attendance – Kathy Johnson
- XVIII. 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM – Breakout Session C: Implementing AVID (and developing a professional support network) – Gina Gannis
- XIX. 1:50 PM – 2:50 PM – Breakout Session A: Tools for determining Projected Revenue – Jon VanOeveren
- XX. 1:50 PM – 2:50 PM – Breakout Session B: Providing Educational Services for EL Students – Laura

Freer

- XXI. 1:50 PM – 2:50 PM – Breakout Session C: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in Our Schools – Blaine Kelley and Esme Rodriguez
- XXII. 2:50 PM – 3:00 PM – Complete your evaluations and pick up your CEU's.
- Patti Haasch will have a booth set up to share with you information about MAAP STARS and to answer any questions that you may have.

Registration

To register for the Friday, November 3rd MAAP “Administrative Issues and Concerns” workshop, go to www.maapevents.com/. (To assist us with planning and food preparation, we would appreciate it if you could have your registrations submitted by October 27th, 2017).

Questions and/or concerns can be directed to Steve Allen at 763-689-4055 or sallen958@gmail.com.

35th Annual State Conference!

By Chris Bodick



Planning for the 2018 State MAAP Conference is underway! The conference will once again be in Mankato at the Verizon Wireless Center, on February 7, 8, & 9, 2018.

This year's theme is Lifelong Learning: We Inspire the Desire!

We already have Nikhil Goyal and Wayne Jennings lined up as two of our keynote presenters. Kikhil wrote the book *Schools on Trial, How Freedom and Creativity Can Fix Our Educational Malpractice* (see article below). Wayne just finished his most recent book, *Transforming Schools* (see article below).

The call-for-presenters is posted on our website, www.maapmn.org. Practitioner presentations have always made the MAAP Conference great! If you are a teacher, counselor, secretary, paraprofessional, or administrator in a MAAP program you can present on your experiences and/or strategies with at risk students! Please consider presenting and sharing with the rest of the MAAP membership! Remember, presenters also receive a \$30.00 discount on their conference registration!

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Chris Bodick cbodick@riverbend.k12.mn.us, or Steve Allen sallen958@gmail.com



Nikhil Goyal

By Bill Zimniwicz



Nikhil Goyal is a journalist and author. He wrote his first book, *One Size Does Not Fit All: A Student's Assessment of Schools*, while he was still in high school.

In 2016, Goyal's second book, *Schools on Trial: How Freedom and Creativity Can Fix Our Educational Malpractice*. Sir Ken Robinson called the book, "A blistering critique of the damage and injustices wrought by standardized education..."

Although still young, Goyal has been interviewed on MSNBC and FOX, and he has written columns and features for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *VICE Magazine*, *The Nation*, and other publications.

Goyal has also had speaking engagements with the Clinton Global Initiative University, Google, Stanford, University of Cambridge, SXSW, LEGO Foundation, among others. In 2013, he was named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. He is also a recipient of the 2013 Freedom Flame Award. He lives in New York.

Nikhil Goyal is one of the youngest advocates for a better education for our learners. He follows in tradition of John Taylor Gatto, Alfie Kohn, Deborah Meier and Pasi Sahlberg, all of who have given keynote addresses at MAAP conferences. He will be traveling the furthest to attend our annual event as he a student at Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Transforming Schools

By Wayne Jennings



I've spent a career thinking about how schools could be more successful. Despite the dedication and work of teachers and administrators, the present 100-year-old model of schooling has reached an obsolescent state. Teachers are not to blame. They didn't invent the system and would change it if given the power to do so. It's time to transform schooling. We can do it here in Minnesota!

I've used stories, quotes and specific steps for how to bring schools up-to-date. The book will be available for a sharply reduced price at my favorite conference, MAAP.

Call for Exhibitors and Vendors

By Deanna Chiodo

Please help us get more vendors and exhibitors to our conference!

We would like to know who/what company you use at your school/program to enhance what you do for students.

- Is there a particular company (or companies) you order materials from?
- Are there places you take your students on retreats, camping trips or for day trips?
- Do you offer courses online?
- Do you do fundraising with a particular company?
- Are there groups you bring in

to do programs at your schools like for bullying, team building, character building, etc.?

- Do you have school pictures taken of your students?

PLEASE let us know your contacts so we can invite them to our MAAP Conference 2018 in Mankato!

Deanna Chiodo
763-241-3400 Ext. 2327
deanna.chiodo@isd728.org

Patti Haasch
612-751-2490
pjhaasch@yahoo.com

E-lympics By Tom Wendt

The E-lympics Returns!
Thursday, December 7th
9:15-11:15 and 12:00-2:00

On Thursday, December 7th, the E-lympics will be held for alternative programs from throughout the State of Minnesota. We will do two sessions of two hours each with a 45 minute break in the middle. Sessions will run from 9:15 AM to 11:15 AM and 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The last questions are released at 10:45 AM and 1:30 PM but 30 minutes are allowed for their submission.

The competition will be held using the Schoology website. Teams will be given the site address and a password with which to log in. The format is as follows: 3 questions are immediately posted at the start time with one additional question posted every five minutes. Teams have up to 30 minutes from the time each question is posted to submit an answer for that question. At the 90 minute mark, the session's 3 final questions are posted and the teams have up to 30 more minutes to complete

their submissions. Both sessions will follow the same format.

One hundred (100) points are awarded per question. Those points are evenly divided among the teams submitting a correct response within the 30 minutes (no bonus for quickness of answer, only correctness matters).

A team is composed of whatever a school decides. Your entire program could be one team, you may select a few students to represent your school, or some schools enter many teams to make a great intra-school competition in the midst of the larger event.

Students may use any resource other than the program's staff. The role of the staff is to help organize and problem solve before the event begins and to be cheerleaders as the E-lympics occurs. Of course, staff may help with any technical issues that may arise.

The cost is \$10 for a school's first team and \$5.00 for each additional team.

Here is my contact information if you need to contact me with any questions or issues, before or during the event:

Tom Wendt
St. Croix Valley ALC
wendtt@stillwaterschools.org
651-323-0657

The registration form is listed below. However, I thought you seeing a copy of three sample problems that were used in last year's event would be useful.

What time was it in Minnesota when this picture was taken?



Olympic Medals

Only one host country of the modern Summer Olympics has failed to win a gold medal. How many gold medals did this same country win during their most recent hosting of the Winter Olympics?

What is the next number in this sequence?

6 13 25 51 101 _?

Here is a link to the Elympics Registration form.

[Elympics Registration Form](#)

A paper copy of the registration form is also on the last page of this newsletter.

We also have a webpage especially for the Elympics:

[Elympics Web Page](#)

MAAP Website By Steve Anderson

We continue to try to improve our websites. The following updates have been made:

- Links have been added to the schools listed under the Regions section of the website. Check out to see if your school is listed. If your school is missing, or does not have a link to its website, email Steve

Anderson at mathjarl@gmail.com, and he will update the information.

- A [Members Questions](#) section has been added. As a member has a question, an email is sent out to collect information, and a summary of the answers is posted on this section of the website.
- A [Latest News](#) section has been added to provide members with the latest information on events in the world of Alternative education.
- A [MAAP the Future](#) section has been added to post articles about possible changes in the future of education. A place for discussion has been set up on both the website and on Facebook.



E-lympics Registration Form
 Thursday
 December 7, 2017

Name of Program _____
 Program address _____
 Number of teams entered _____
 Total cost _____ (\$10 for first team plus \$5 for each additional team)

Copy & paste registration section below as often as needed

Contact person _____
 Contact person's email _____
 Contact person's phone number _____
 (needed for emergency contact during competition if technical issues occur)

Team name (should include school name) _____

Contact person _____
 Contact person's email _____
 Contact person's phone number _____
 (needed for emergency contact during competition if technical issues occur)

Team name (should include school name) _____

Make check payable to St. Croix Valley ALC.

Send check and registration form to: Tom Wendt, St. Croix Valley ALC, 5701 Stillwater Blvd. N., Oak Park Heights, MN 55082