Members Present:
Mitch Jorgensen, Chair – Langdon Area Elementary School
Byron Engberg – Tate Topa Elementary School (Fort Totten)
Kim Krogfoss – Minnie H Elementary School (Devils Lake)
Daniel Ludvigson – Munich Public School
Roger Jensen – Leeds Public School
Deb Follman – Sweetwater Elementary (Devils Lake)
Vicki Held – North Star Public School (Cando)

Discussion Items
1. Common Core Math & Reading Concerns
   Discussion was held about opting out of testing. Parents are allowed to choose this option, but schools cannot opt out of the test as a whole. Discussion was held about curriculums each school was using in regards to math. Go Math, My Math, Macmillan and Engage NY were all being implemented. Some frustrations with current curriculums were brought up, yet others were happy with their choice.

2. Spring Testing
   Deb Follman from Sweetwater Elementary discussed her role on the Smarter Balance English Language Arts (ELA) review team. Her concern she shared was the amount of inferring that was going to be in the test. Vicki Held from North Star Elementary mentioned how they piloted the reading and language arts tests last year. The percentage of students making adequate progress on the Smarter Balance assessment was much lower when compared to the number of students who made AYP on last year’s North Dakota State Assessment. Some tips for administering the tests were shared such as using online practice tests through Digital Library. Students on IEP or 504 should have a hard copy via the “Print on Demand” option. This will allow them to read the passages and answer on the screen, rather than trying to split screen or navigate back-and-forth between the reading screen and test screen.
3. AdvancEd-Assist

Consensus was that the website is quite difficult to navigate. Meredith Traeholdt would be a valuable resource if schools are having difficulties with the AdvancEd site. It was highly recommended for schools to send personnel to be a part of review teams so that they can better understand the process AdvancEd uses to accredit school and districts. Principals in attendance were to contact Mike Heilman or Sherry Houdek if there were interested in sending themselves or staff members to be a part of a visitation team.

4. Evaluation Models

Schools are using different models to comply with the state mandate. Marzano is being implemented in Langdon, Devils Lake, Leeds and Tate Topa. North Star currently uses Marshall. Discussion was held on the benefits of Iobservation that goes along with the Marzano Growth Model and Evaluation Tool. Though expensive, it looks to be very beneficial with its data collecting abilities.

5. Award Nominations

Region III in the past has missed out on opportunities for its principals to be recognized, due to lack of nominations. Deb Follman, Sweetwater Elementary, discussed in detail the process and the appropriate recognition awards available to our members. Once applications are available, we need to do a better job of nominating worthy candidates. One hang-up to this is that nobody really knows what goes on at other schools and just how effective the elementary principal is doing the job. It was suggested to find someone to nominate and take a few minutes to visit with the Superintendent, Secretary or Teacher(s) to get a clearer picture. Submissions can be sent to Deb Follman, who as a former NDP serves as the NDAESP Co-chair for the Awards committee.

6. Open Discussion

It was agreed upon by consensus that our Region III Representatives make sure to take the time to vote for both state and national representatives running for office. In particular, the importance of voting for Dave Steckler for the NAESP Zone 7 President he is vying for.

Midwinter Conference is being held February 4-6, 2015 and held at the Best Western Ramada Inn in Bismarck. Reservations can be made at 1-800-230-4134.
**Steve Dunn Writing Workshop @ Minnie H Elementary**

Elementary Principals had the opportunity to sit in and observe Steve Dunn teaching teachers on the preparation, details and implementation of his writing course. Principals were then allowed to sit in on a classroom where these strategies were implemented. This is the second year, the NESC has had Steve Dunn and his program shared with teachers. Last year language arts and reading teachers from grades 4-6 were trained with grades 2&3 implementing it this school year. The NESC has agreed to bring him back next year for Kindergarten and first grades. He comes highly recommended and does a fantastic job of turning writing, into a fun-filled curricula, that students have really enjoyed while learning all the same.

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2015 – 1:30 pm @ Kneadful Things in Devils Lake.**