

Director of Professional Learning Report

December 15, 2011

Professional Learning

- Our third PD day for the school year Friday was a busy and productive day. I've arranged schedules for September 30, October 28, November 10 (for those not primarily responsible for conferences) and December 9th thus far.

The focus of the elementary school has been on the implementation of Math in Focus and Friday we had the two MiF consultants return to work for 2 hour sessions with each grade level. Feedback from these sessions was extremely positive and reassured our teachers that they are on the right path! Teachers have had time to collaborate on these learning days and the professional conversations have produced great results.

For these three professional development days, I have been arranging visits to other schools for the unified arts teachers. They have had the opportunity to observe other teachers, meet with them to discuss curriculum and instruction, and see how others schedule, etc. Many of the teachers have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate and have had experiences to share with their team members at EES.

The middle school continues to work on the implementation of the project period. I had the opportunity to work with several teachers on curriculum in the afternoon. In our continuing efforts to align across grade levels, the Language Arts teachers had a "refresher" of their summer training in Fountas and Pinnell assessments in reading while the math teachers worked with the MiF consultant. It is a positive indicator that teachers in grades 7 and 8 are working with their colleagues even though the materials are not yet in use in their classrooms.

The high school has been working on the topic of authentic assessments and connecting those with competencies. This leads to the conversation of grading and reporting which is required by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC). They report a productive day!

Curriculum

- I continue to spend a significant amount of time working with various groups on their curriculum which is both personally and professionally rewarding. Unified arts teachers were more available on conference day, so we have been editing and refining their materials in preparation to coming to you for final approval. I have enjoyed the conversations we have had on their focus in the areas of mathematics and literacy as they, indeed, provide the vehicle for application of other classroom instruction.
- At your meeting tonight the World Language teachers, Ray Carrier, Charley Faria and Deb Brooks, will share the work they have been doing in Spanish and French. This is their initial presentation and is for your information only and is not yet ready for final approval.

New Teachers

Our new teachers are doing a nice job acclimating themselves to our district. As you know, we changed from the mentor program we had been using and are relying more on team leaders and consultants helping answer the “how do we do things here” and “how to teach” types of questions. I’ve worked with the new teachers on planning and curriculum and check in with them regularly.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday evening, and if I don’t have the opportunity, I’d like to wish you the very best for the holiday season and into the new year!

Lyn Ward Healy

Director of Professional Learning