

Instructional Planning Council – September 21st, 2016

The Instructional Planning Council is made up of representatives from all component districts as well as TST BOCES. Each year the Instructional Planning Council creates a set of regional priorities that are student centered, systemic and data-informed. The council meets monthly to promote both organizational learning and teacher learning that leads to positive measurable outcomes for students.

Attendance:

Alexis Abramo, SUNY Cortland
Jeane Copenhaver-Johnson, Ithaca College
Rhody O'Donnell, LGTC
Lauren Faessler, TST BOCES/Lansing
Jacob Roe, Groton & TST BOCES
MaryKay Welgoss, TST BOCES
Cheryl Button, TST BOCES
Justin DiMatteo, TST BOCES
Jennifer Gondek, TST BOCES

Kim Nichols, Candor
Angela Gemignani, Trumansburg
Lynn VanDeWeert, ICSD
Leon Ginenthal, ICSD
Paul Wiech, TST BOCES
Jennifer Astles, TST BOCES
Barry Derfel, TST BOCES
Beth Dryer, TST BOCES
Sunshine Miller, TST BOCES

Notes:

- We shifted from our planned agenda because it became clear that the group needed time to talk about the Regional Priorities, last year's work, and how we should focus our work for this year. In response to the ideas shared in our meeting, the agenda for next month will include the following:
 - Specific report outs from Barry and Beth regarding recent NYSED guidance, initiatives, etc.
 - Each district or organization representative will briefly (3 – 5 minutes) share what their district/organization is focusing on for this year, and any specific highlights they would like the group to know about.
 - Next steps for continuing to help move all of our districts towards the *Highly Effective* end of the Danielson Rubric in the five Regional Priority ([click here](#)) areas.
- Please see the following specific updates about our TST BOCES School Improvement Services Team's specific efforts to help move all of our districts towards the *Highly Effective* end of the Danielson Rubric in the five Regional Priority ([click here](#)) areas.

Updates provided by Beth Dryer -

- The **Demonstration Classrooms** initiative is moving forward. We have 13 Demonstration Classroom teachers participating. They participated in a number of training sessions this summer, and are working closely with three coaches - Beth, Allison Peet, and Jennifer Gondek this fall to make sure that the practices they are demonstrating will represent the quality of practice we would want other teachers to observe. The goal over the fall is to collect baseline data in relation to the two areas of focus, which include *Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques* and *Using Assessment in Instruction* (Danielson. 3b & 3d). These are also [TST BOCES regional priorities](#). We are spending the fall coaching these

folks in the areas of need that emerge from this data collection. Beginning in January, teachers from the region will begin to have the opportunity to visit these classrooms in a structured way. More information about this will be shared as we get closer to second semester.

- The **Computer-Based Testing** (CBT) Timeline can be found (along with other resources), at this website - <http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/schools/computer-based-testing-cbt> . Note that we are currently in voluntary mode, with the goal of all schools using Computer Based Testing by 2020. There are also CBT samples that you, teachers, and students can try. It is suggested that each building field-test at least one grade level each year, to help work through the glitches and familiarize teachers and students with the process. For those who have already done this, please share any glitches with NYSED (or Beth and Barry), if you aren't sure who to communicate to), so that we can help you have these addressed quickly. Beth has asked Justin DiMatteo (one of our Regional Technology Integration Specialists) to participate in the weekly NYSED CBT information and feedback call. Justin and our Tech Team can work with administrators to help you work with teachers to prepare students by familiarize them with the technology nuances, etc.
- Standards and Assessment – The AimHigh NY Survey results were used by NYSED this summer to facilitate a review and revision process. Multiple stakeholder groups, with diverse and divergent perspectives, were included in the process. NYSED is continuing to invite teacher input into the standards revision process and the assessment process. The following link will give you access to more information, and Barry will also share these links via the Weekly Bulletin: <http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny>. In a future meeting, the members of the Instructional Planning Council and members of our Teacher-Leader Networks will be reviewing the proposed changes and providing input via the public comment process. Beth is also available to work with principals in sharing this with their staff, if interested.
- Our team meets twice a month as a Professional Development Planning Committee to help us use a variety of student outcome data to coordinate our regional and district level professional development efforts, with a focus on promoting organizational, educator and student learning.

Updates provided by Barry Derfel -

- We had close to 70 educators participate in the summer **Unit Planning** work, and our team will be providing ongoing support to those participants throughout the year. Prior to the end of the third day, all participants handed in their unit plans, at whatever stage of completion these were in. Before educators teach the unit they are expected to complete the unit plan, and each teacher has at least one member of the TST School Improvement Services Team who is assigned as a point-person to help make sure they get the help they need to finish planning the unit. When the unit is taught, one or more of the TST folks will be going into the classroom to see the unit in action, and to help the teacher reflect on how it goes, compared to how it was planned to go. We will also be collecting student artifacts that are generated through the unit, so that our team can reflect on what students did in relation to the professional development support we provided. We will be offering Unit

Planning follow-up support this fall and winter. More details will be shared via the Weekly Bulletin.

- TST BOCES collaborated with NYSED in applying for a **TIF Grant**. The TIF program focuses on developing and supporting the teacher and principal educator workforce through a series of coherent strategies aimed to increase high quality instruction and school leadership so that all students can achieve high levels of success. We will find out about whether or not we have been awarded the grant sometime within the next month.
- Each of our districts is entitled to a number of specific **Data Reports**, through CYNRIC. Barry will be working with Lori DeForest to offer a few sessions this fall, both to communicate the kinds of reports that are available and the ways that administrators and teachers could use these reports to help increase student success. Specific details will be shared via the Weekly Bulletin.
- We are working in collaboration with the **National Board Certification** (NBCT) folks to help promote National Board Certification among Teachers in our region. More information will be shared via the Weekly Bulletin. Not only is there a grant available for teachers to be reimbursed for their participation, there is also money available for buildings that have teachers who are NBCT, to purchase technology and other resources to support the leadership efforts of these educators.
- The **Teacher Research Fellows** program is up and running, in collaboration with Ithaca College, and most of our districts have two teachers who were accepted into the program. Teachers who are serving as 2016-2017 Teacher Research Fellows will have the opportunity to conduct inquiries in response to pressing questions they develop about their classrooms, curriculum, and students' learning. Teachers from the Ithaca, South Seneca, Trumansburg, Groton, and Dryden school districts are participating this year.
- This is a reminder that last spring we worked through the Instructional Planning Council to identify **Regional Priorities** for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Since the core of our work is to promote both organizational learning and teacher learning that leads to positive measurable outcomes for all 13,500 students in our region, we created Regional Priorities that are student-centered, systemic, and data-informed. To increase efficacy, we align our efforts with research and we commit ourselves to setting priorities that will help us measure the ways in which our work impacts students. We agreed to continue deepening our regional understanding of the same five priorities that we had been working on last year, rather than moving on to a new set of priorities. And, we agreed that we would use the lens of *Highly Effective* to help us do this. More information can be found here: tstboces.org/instructional-services/regional-priorities/
- Barry will begin facilitating an AP/Dean Council in November. This council will be open to AP's and Deans at all levels, pre-K – 12. This will run from 8:00 – 10:00 on the first Tuesday of the month, starting on November 1st.
- The TSTS Model Schools Fall 2016 Catalogue is available here - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8PjVy7En70mbVhGc05yUVgwWGc/view?usp=sharing>

Meeting dates for the remainder of the year: ([Click here](#) to view on web.)

October 11, 2016, November 8, 2016, December 13, 2016, January 10, 2017, February 14, 2017,
March 14, 2017, April 11, 2017, May 9, 2017

Notes taken by,
Barry Derfel