

Instructional Planning Council – May 9th 2017

The Instructional Planning Council is made up of Curriculum and Instruction leaders/specialists from all component districts, representatives from local Institutions of Higher Education and Teacher Center(s), as well as members of the TST BOCES School Improvement Services Team. Each year the Instructional Planning Council creates a set of TST BOCES 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
Barry Derfel, TST BOCES
Beth Dryer, TST BOCES
Leon Ginenthal, ICSD
Sunshine Miller, TST BOCES
Rhody O'Donnell, LGTC
Jake Roe, TST BOCES
Paul Wiech, TST BOCES

Jennifer Astles-Steinmetz, TST BOCES
Justin DiMatteo, TST BOCES
Jenn Gondek, TST BOCES
Mark Jasinski, Newfield
Kim Nichols, Candor
Allison Peet, TST BOCES
Lynn VanDeWeert, ICSD

To Do:

- Barry will update the Superintendents regarding the Regional Priorities, with the intent of sending back out a proposed final draft by early next week.
- Lee and Barry will work together over the course of the next week to make sure that information about ICSD's regional Inclusion Conference is shared via the TST School Improvement Services Weekly Bulletin, mlp, etc.

TST Updates:

- Members of our team provided details regarding our Regional Summer Professional Development offerings. This [linked information](#) is also available in Schoology. Barry shared information about SUNY Cortland's "Re-imagining Schools for Learning in the 21st century" Leadership Institute with Will Richardson, will be held on August 14th at SUNY Cortland. This institute is being co-sponsored by
- Beth shared information about the new ELA and Math Standards rollout and feedback process, showing folks where this information can be found on the [AimHigh](#) Website.

District/Partner Organization Support - Around the Table:

- Rhody – We will be offering an "Engaging the Destructive Student" workshop offered by Groton/Lansing Teacher Center on May 18th. It looks like we will be getting increased funding for next year, so we will be offering even more supports next year. Rhody also shared that Cortland County Teachers Center is providing a workshop Supporting Students with Brain Injuries on May 17th.
- Mark - In Newfield we continue to look closely at Math and ELA standards, and we've initiated data teams at the Elementary level and we've initiating using PLATO as a diagnostic tool with 9th grade. In addition, we will continue our mindset efforts (connected to Carol Dweck's work). This year we had "gusty goals," and we hope to continue this work.

Together we learn, lead, support and serve

- Lee – My big focus is on pulling together the Inclusion Conference and on tying together all of the inclusion efforts and information we've been working on into a format/document that is prioritized for implementation. Lee suggested that some of the tools they've used and the lessons they've learned in moving towards inclusion, as well as how they've tried to align efforts.
- Kim - We learned from the *Happiness Advantage* project about the importance of cultivating social/mental health. We asked everyone in the district to choose something that makes them happy and to focus on that for 30 days. We then moved into a challenge where people chose from a list of 6 research-based practices that increase happiness and followed up on this for 30 days. We then had people choose/generate *Passion Projects* that they believed would make
- them happy, with a focus on improving something in the district. We dedicated our monthly release-time for folks to work on these. Last week we had a major gallery walk in which folks got to see what each other had done - it was a great afternoon, a chance for people to celebrate, relax, and enjoy each other. We are now gearing up for *Happiness Advantage for the students*, (Learning in the Brain conference gave us some clarity around this, in the form of PERMA - Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Accomplishments). This really fits with what we are trying to do, which is not as much about test scores as it is about growing the whole child. We are also continuing with our PBL work, as we believe that this will help increase meaningful student engagement.
- Alexis - In addition to the Will Richardson conference, a number of our partners are asking for a Pyramid training - I am looking for resources/trainers, and I am letting you know about this in case there are districts who are interested in participating. Lee suggested two people that Alexis might reach out to, and Lynn also shared. We are putting together an early-childhood education professional learning opportunities. Our partner districts are also asking for more support in the areas of mental health, violence prevention, trauma-informed schools, etc. Peggy Dolan is facilitating a retreat workshop this summer (August 13th - 15th) called Courage to Teach, and Barry will put a flier about this into an upcoming bulletin.
- Lynn - We just completed CBT in ELA and Math and it went very smoothly. Justin was quite helpful in this go well. We have lots of resources that we created to support the transition, and folks can reach out to Justin to access these. We are focusing on our summer professional development, and we are hoping to highlight how our PD connects to/interacts with the opportunities being offered through TST BOCES. We have intentionally planned our offerings so they won't conflict with the TST BOCES offerings. As a result, teachers have the opportunity to spend extended amounts of time learning, if they choose. We are working closely with administrators in being able to highlight where our big initiatives live with Danielson. We are also working to promote PBL, in terms of helping leadership teams understand what PBL is, and how it can help move us towards our vision to engage, educate, and empower. We are really trying to have folks think about how to build from where we are, rather than think about adding in more initiatives. Our district received the My Brother's Keeper grant, which is designed to support young men/boys of color and which we are expanded to support young women/girls of color. Travis Brooks from GIAC is taking the lead on coordinating this effort. We are still interested making connections to other districts that are using PBL. Barry shared that three of our team will be getting trained this summer to be PBL trainers.

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Meeting dates for 2017 – 2018: These will be shared by early June.