

Instructional Planning Council – November 8th, 2016

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:

Jennifer Astles-Steinmetz, TST BOCES
Melissa Butler, South Seneca
Cheryl Button, TST BOCES
Jeanie Copenhaver-Johnson, Ithaca College
Barry Derfel, TST BOCES
Justin DiMatteo, TST BOCES
Cheryl Covell, Dryden
Lauren Faessler, TST BOCES/Lansing

Angela Gemignani, Trumansburg
Leon Ginenthal, ICSD
Jennifer Gondek, TST BOCES
Kim Nichols, Candor
Rhody O'Donnell, Lansing
Allison Peet, TST BOCES
Jacob Roe, TST BOCES

To Do:

- Jacob Roe will connect with Anna Callahan (and include Paul Weich and Beth Dryer), so they can think about possible NGSS connections (i.e. internationalizing issues of water, etc.), as well as other Problem-Based Learning possibilities.
- IPC folks are encouraged to share the Computer Based Testing presentation with appropriate folks within their district/organization. This presentation is can be accessed [here](#), and is uploaded in Schoology.
- IPC members are encouraged to engage in conversation with superintendents, CSE chairs, and principals about the Regional “Blueprint – From Plan to Action” efforts we will begin rolling out this January. Remember that this may be new information for principals, as they will be learning about this during their upcoming Council meetings, and that CSE chairs may only have some initial information now, as they will be learning more about this at their November meeting.

Notes:

- Anna Callahan shared information about Cornell University’s Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies’ lending library of culture-generated and affirming resources. She used a Prezi ([click here](#); also uploaded to Schoology) to show some of the different resources that K-12 educators can access, as well as information about how these resources were created and how teachers can go about signing these out. Anna asked the group if they have some ideas about to help teachers in the region connect with the Center in order to access the kit.

Some suggestions included: Lauren suggested a chart that was organized by grade-level, and Lee suggested that if learning targets were clearly articulated, this might help teachers recognize connections.

- Suzanne Jackson shared information about our regional efforts to put into action the Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities. This is a collaborative effort between Barry Derfel, David Barr, and Suzanne. Suzanne is most recently from SED. Prior to her work with SED, Suzanne directly served our region in many capacities connected to Special Education. First, Suzanne explained some of the nuances of each of the 7 principles, and she shared look fors that connect to each one. Suzanne then explained that we are going to be working together, over the course of this winter, spring, and next summer, to help operationalize the Blueprint throughout the region in ways that lead to increasing success for all students. There will be an initial full-day session in January that is designed to bring district-teams together to reflect on the current state of the district, in terms of the 7 principles, areas of strength, and areas in which the district would like to make significant growth. (The date will be either January 13th or January 17th.) We will bring together district teams, consisting of a principal or two, a CSE chair, curriculum and instruction specialists/directors, general education teacher leaders, and special education teacher leaders, for a full-day regional learning session, with the following learning targets: I can...
 - Work with colleagues to help establish a collective understanding throughout our district of what the Blueprint is, why it matters, and how Universal Design for Learning can be leveraged in teacher planning and instructional delivery in ways that lead to increased success rates for students with disabilities, as well as all students.
 - Identify 2 - 4 priority areas from within the Blueprint that make sense for our district to focus on (i.e. that are connected to work we are already doing and/or that are most likely to lead to observable, meaningful growth).
 - Generate concrete, actionable next steps that our district will take.
 - Identify additional needs/areas of support that the TST School Improvement Services Team can facilitate with us throughout the spring and summer of 2017.

After the January session, Suzanne and the TST School Improvement Services team will be working together to support districts in moving this work forward. To help generate anecdotal data from IPC members, we took some time to identify areas of strength and areas of challenge regarding Principles #3 - #7. One area of strength across the region seems to be #7. One area of challenge seems to be #6. Within this, a specific need is learning how to effectively include students with significant behavior challenges into classrooms in ways that create a safe, healthy, and effective learning environment for all students. An area of challenge (and also an area of some strength) is #5 – with a particular focus on how to provide support and feedback to teachers who are feeling frustrated with meeting the academic needs of students who are struggling. In terms of strength, Candor has been able to bring grade level teams together to engage in meaningful conversations about academic success and challenges, and to identify and implement solutions. An area of mostly challenge is #4 – with one specific area being how to continue increasing the rigor of students who are in a pull-out class (also known as prioritized curriculum classes). An area both strength and challenge is #3.

Together we learn, lead, support, and serve

- Computer-Based Testing updates – Justin DiMatteo shared a presentation with the most recent Computer-Based Testing information. The presentation is interactive (i.e. with hotlinks), so IPC folks are encouraged to share this with appropriate folks within their district/organization. This presentation is in Schoology, and can also be accessed [here](#). He reminded us about current NYSAA deadlines and the overall five-year transition timeline.

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

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

Notes taken by,
Barry Derfel