

Assistant Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
April 2019

Curriculum, instruction and Assessment

ASCD Conference - A group of eight people including six members of the Kent Center School staff, Dr. Vogel and I attended the conference this year. I attended workshops as follows:

- Reading and writing instruction and rubric creation
- Finland's educational system and possible "translations" for the U.S. system
- Social Emotional Learning - instructional tools
- Mathematics - curriculum and instructional strategies
- Professional development and micro-credentialing

The workshop presentations provided useful information and also validated much of the work currently being undertaken in Region One.

Math Instruction - This month, the principals and several teachers from Kent Center School and Cornwall Consolidated school on a visit to the Lake Garda school in Burlington, CT. We met with Brennan Glasgow the Math and Science Coordinator to discuss their experience with the [Bridges](#) math program. In addition to our meeting, we observed several classrooms and talked with a math support teacher. Kent and Cornwall staff are considering the adoption of this program for next year. We will share the findings from our visit with the rest of the Region One pre-k-8 principals.

Assessment

AP Update 2020 - Kim McLeod and I attended a College Board event where presenters outlined the upcoming changes to the 2019-20 AP program. A summary of the changes are as follows:

- AP Test registration will take place in the fall and must be completed by November 15 - This change is being made after a two-year pilot by the College Board that indicated improved AP test performance if students make a commitment to the test in the fall.
- Students will have access to Personal Progress Checks - digital tool to help students monitor their progress throughout the course
- Teachers will have access to Unit Guides for many of the AP courses - information that provides the course content at a glance. This is not curriculum, but a guide that is designed to support curriculum development that is closely aligned with expected AP learning outcomes.

Kim McLeod will be communicating with teachers, students and parents to ensure that the changes are clearly understood and implemented at the High School.

Professional Development

Regional PD - March 15 was a teacher-led professional development day throughout the Region. Grade K-8 faculty members participated in [workshops](#) developed by Region One teachers on specific topics that are aligned with the Regional strategic initiatives. The workshop offerings were created in collaboration with the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee.

At the High School, teacher workshops included two workshops on grading practices (deadlines and student accountability and learning practices), a workshop on formative and summative assessment and one on Social Emotional Learning.

Teacher Evaluation - Amy Tepper (Revision Learning) returned in mid-March to work with a team of administrators. She continued to focus on providing effective post-observation feedback. Principals observed real-time lessons at Sharon Center School and then participated in another “fishbowl” exercise where they were able to observe one another provide feedback to the observed teachers.

Math Instruction “Look Fors” - Ian Strever, Karen Manning, Mike Croft and I attended the second (in a series of three) workshop on best practices in math instruction. This most recent session focused on the [eight mathematical practices](#). Math practices are the habits of mind that are critical for students to learn so that they are able to successfully use math concepts to identify and solve problems. The workshop provided opportunities to view classroom teachers (video recordings of lessons) and discuss the instructional strategies used to teach these practices.

Professional Development Plans - 2019-20 - Members of the PDEC (Professional Development and Evaluation Committee) have collaborated with Region One administrators to create the following PD plan for the next school year.

- Regional PD days - 3
 - August 30 - Workshops on topics that will help teachers start the school year
 - October 14 - Social Emotional Learning workshops
 - January 3 - Curriculum writing/review/revision
- Early Release/Late Start Days - 8
 - Pre-K -8 - The programming will be determined by building principals for six of these days. Two days (January 15 and March 4) will be reserved for intraregional grade level/content specific meetings.
 - HVRHS - The Professional Development Task force will work in collaboration with Ian Strever and the rest of the faculty to determine the High School PD plans.
- Pupil Services - Carl Gross and Martha Schwaikert will determine the schedule for their staff based on building and staff needs.

Staffing

2019-20 Position Postings - The chart below indicates the current certified positions that are posted for the next school year:

School	Positions
Cornwall	ELA
HVRHS	AgEd - 2 FTE Math/Business Ed - 1 FTE

Kellogg	No vacancies
Kent	Middle School Math - 1 FTE
NCES	Fourth Grade Teacher - 1 FTE
Salisbury	5th Grade ELA - 1 long term sub
Sharon	Middle School ELA - 1 FTE Library Media Specialist-1 FTE

I am currently working with building principals to assist with the candidate interview and selection process. Individual principals will report on their progress with staffing activities in their reports. There may be additional vacancies before the end of the school year.

Career/Work Experience Program

Planning continues for the Financial Reality Fair on April 24th. Dr. O'Neill and Ms. Beaujon are making last attempts to contact seniors and collect permission forms. Deadline for all materials to be submitted to the organizers is March 27.

Career Connections event scheduled for May 8 is being planned. Junior and senior students are being polled through English classes to target a career cluster of interest. Small discussions between local career professionals and HVRHS students will occur from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. with a prep session held on May 2.

Eight students will attend the UCONN Health Career Day on April 2 in Farmington, CT.

The 2nd HV@NYC event is on April 26. Dr. O'Neill and Mr. Vermilyea will take eight highly motivated history students to the Tenement Museum and McGee Media (historical documentary film company) to tour and meet with professionals in the wider field of history and using career skills cultivated in the study of history.

Opportunities for job shadows, internships, and student employment continue to be posted to students.

Dr. O'Neill is representing Career Experience to update local community groups about the program's progress.

Dr. O'Neill is pursuing community service club opportunities with Mr. Schibi for Rotary Interact and Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy.

Dr. O'Neill's [full report](#) is available for your review.

English Learner Program Coordination

Mrs. Huber spent the beginning of March completing the LAS Links testing for Region 1. All students have completed the testing within the deadline. On-Demand reports were available as tested were scored

providing an immediate indication of student progress this year. The test results show that every student has grown one level in at least one domain of English language proficiency. Nine students have made sufficient progress English in reading, writing, and overall proficiency to exit from EL status at the end of this school year.

Mrs. Huber attended a workshop called “Systems and Structures to Support English Learner in the SRBI Process” on March 5 where she gained valuable information regarding the SRBI referral process for EL students. She met with Carl Gross to share the information as they have been working together on ensuring that this process is implemented appropriately in all of the Region One schools.

On March 15, Mrs. Huber collaborated with Linda Massucci and Ruth Salas-Ramos to facilitate a workshop for Region One Pre-K-8 teachers as part of the professional development day. They focused on welcoming EL students into the classroom, strategies to use with EL students in the classroom, accommodations and modifications for EL students, and grading practices. The workshop included an authentic activity and video to give teachers some perspective on what it feels like to be an EL student in an English-speaking classroom.

Finally, Mrs. Huber and the EL teachers in the Region will work on putting together an informational packet for our EL students to provide information about the services and summer programs available in our area. A Regional International Family Night is being planned for the Fall of 2019.