



Newton Public Schools
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Fleishman
From: Mary Eich, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Date: September 24, 2014
Re: Report on Summer Work

The summer of 2014 was full of exciting work for teachers and students across Newton. Nearly 400 teachers participated in some form of curriculum development, professional development, or school-based planning.

The attached report provides information about this endeavor, with connections to Newton Public Schools initiatives and priorities. I look forward to our discussion on Monday night.

Summer Workshops 2014

Each year, Newton educators take advantage of the relatively slower pace of summer to work on goals focused on improving teaching and learning. The time allows teachers to focus intently on a topic or topics feeling rested and without the distractions of the daily responsibilities of their positions.

Summer work falls into three broad categories: curriculum development, content-based professional development, and school-based projects, which often address social emotional learning and school climate. Workshop facilitators are most often curriculum coordinators, directors, principals, and high school department heads, but can also be teachers with approval from principals or coordinators. Recently math coaches, instructional technology specialists and literacy specialists have provided summer workshops as well.

Administrators apply to the Office of Teaching and Learning for funding and/or in-service credits through a process that has evolved over time. Successful proposals are aligned with district goals and respond to urgent needs.

Administrators submitted nearly one hundred applications for Summer 2014 projects, requesting approximately 900 stipended days for cost of about \$216,000. While we have not yet completed the full accounting for this summer, the final numbers are typically a little lower.

Below is a description of four projects that I will speak in detail about Monday night. Also enclosed is an entire list of summer workshops.

Common Core Mathematics in Grade 9

Mathematics teachers from Newton North and Newton South created curriculum materials to align ninth grade mathematics to the Common Core State Standards for ninth grade Advanced College Prep and College Prep courses. The work included

- Defining Units of Study for 9th grade Advanced College Prep and College Prep courses including
 - Online text materials
 - Activity-based lessons for use in class
 - Homework assignments
 - Sample Assessments
- Using online tools such as Schoology, Safari Montage and Google Docs to disseminate materials for ninth grade teachers in addition to providing hard copies
- Planning training for colleagues during the 2014-2015 academic year

Elementary Writing Institute

Following up on the success of last year's elementary writing institute, literacy specialists offered a similar four-day institute focused on this year's new units, particularly on

information writing. As was the case last summer, teachers dug into the materials, learned about the architecture and pedagogy of different components of the information units, delved into assessment tools and techniques. "Teacher as writer" activities provided opportunities to do some writing themselves; drafting and revising pieces, giving and receiving feedback, using mentor texts and writing checklists to self-assess and finally publishing pieces in an anthology and group read-around.

Middle School Science

Using the draft MA DESE Frameworks for STE, teachers used the Newton-Marshall template to develop a draft course of study in middle school science with units for each grade and for a two year course of study for engineering used across the district.

Brown Advisory Curriculum Development

A growing body of research supports the importance of advisory programs in middle schools. Advisory programs promote students feeling "connected" to responsible and caring adults. Brown Middle School, working with a consultant, developed daily activities for the daily 15-minute advisory period.

Summer Workshops 2014

English Language Arts

- English Language Arts Elementary Cabot Vertical Alignment in Writing
- English Language Arts Elementary Writing Institute
- English Language Arts Middle School Writing
- English Language Arts North 6-12 Shakespeare Curriculum
- English Language Arts North Literacy Specialist
- English Language Arts North NSHS Differentiation
- English Language Arts North NSHS Vocabulary Review
- English Language Arts North NSHS Senior Curriculum
- English Language Learning K-12 Productive Language
- English Language Learning Middle, High WIDA-izing Beginner and Understanding by Design Curriculum Maps
- English Language Learning North English Language Arts District Determined Measures

Fine Arts

- Fine Arts Elementary Developing Common Assessment
- Fine Arts Middle School Choral Sight Reading Lesson Development
- Fine Arts South Curriculum Development

History and Social Science

- History and Social Science AP Curriculum Change
- History and Social Science Elementary Grades 3 & 4 Alignment & Integration
- History and Social Science Ninth grade history curriculum revision
- History and Social Science North AP Exam Revisions
- History and Social Science North Dover Legacy Scholars Course Development
- History and Social Science North ELL Course Development
- History and Social Science South Ninth grade history pilot
- History and Social Science South US AP Curriculum Revision South

Instructional Technology

- Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary Aligning the Library Curriculum K-5 to Common Core
- Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary Connecting to the Curriculum: Creating a Guaranteed and Viable Collection: ebooks and Social Studies
- Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary Internet Safety: Social Networking in Elementary School

- Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary LibGuides for Elementary: Creating Research Guides to Support The Social Studies Curriculum
- Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary Location and Access: K-5 scope and sequence for instructing students in the use of an online catalog Pt. 2
- Instructional Technology and Library Media High School Schoology - Planning and Developing
- Instructional Technology and Library Media iPads in K-2
- Instructional Technology and Library Media Middle School Information Problem Solving: Teaching a Research Process
- Instructional Technology and Library Media, Learning to Read, Write and Take Notes using a Digital Platform
- Instructional Technology and Library Media, Mathematics Elementary Developing Grade Level Math/Tech Projects
- Instructional Technology and Library Media, Mathematics, Science and Technology/Engineering Elementary STEM Initiatives

Interdisciplinary

- Interdisciplinary Elementary English Language Arts, Science and Engineering/ Technology Writing Unit Grade 2
- Interdisciplinary Elementary English Language Learning, Instructional Technology and Library Media Elementary Kindergarten iPads and Phonemic Awareness
- Interdisciplinary English Language Arts, History and Social Studies Elementary Civil Rights Unit Grade 4
- Interdisciplinary History and Social Studies, Special Education South Course creation: Links/Pilot/College Prep Courses
- Interdisciplinary K-12 English Language Arts, English Language Learning Beginner's Writing Curriculum Development
- Interdisciplinary K-12 English Language Learning Elementary ELA/ELL Crosswalk for Opinion and Narrative Writing
- Interdisciplinary Math, ELA, Science, History, SPED North Co-Teaching
- Interdisciplinary South English Language Arts, Science and Engineering/ Technology South Writing Seminar

Mathematics

- Mathematics Elementary Embedded Progress Monitoring
- Mathematics Elementary High Cognitive Demand Tasks
- Mathematics Middle School Align Curriculum while Increasing Engagement
- Mathematics Middle School Common Assessment Questions
- Mathematics Middle School Develop Beginning of Year Assessments
- Mathematics Middle School Developing Co-Teaching Plans
- Mathematics Middle School RTI Assessments and Interventions

- Mathematics North and South Ninth Grade Curriculum Work

Other

- Mentoring and Induction K-12 Curriculum Planning and Design
- Career and Technical Education South Family and Consumer Science Curriculum

Physical Education Health and Wellness

- Physical Education Health and Wellness Middle School Health Curriculum
- Physical Education Health and Wellness North Review S&H Curriculum with updates

Science and Technology/Engineering

- Science and Technology/Engineering Middle School Curriculum leadership
- Science and Technology/Engineering Middle School Grade 6 - 8 Curriculum Transition to new frameworks
- Science and Technology/Engineering North 670 Course Revision to include Performance Assessments
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Adjustments to Honors Biology
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Aligning new Biology Honors Curriculum with College Prep and Advanced College
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Developing an Alternative Sequence in Science
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Forensics - new course
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Implementing new Living by Chemistry Curriculum in College Prep and Advanced College Prep Chemistry
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Intro Physics Differentiation - Videos for Flipped Classroom
- Science and Technology/Engineering North Thematic Approaches in Advanced College Prep Chemistry

Social and Emotional Learning

- Social Emotional Elementary Burr School Core Values
- Social Emotional Elementary Developing Memorial Spaulding All School Behavior Support Plan
- Social Emotional Elementary Responsive Classroom Teacher Training
- Social Emotional Elementary School Core Values
- Social Emotional Middle School Brown and Oak Hill Advisories
- Social Emotional Middle School Core Values
- Social Emotional North Counselor Statement Writing Day
- Social Emotional South Developmental Guidance

Special Education

- Special Education Elementary Creation of Aligned Googledoc
- Special Education Elementary Team Specialist Orientation (new to NPS)
- Special Education North Academic Support Curriculum
- Special Education North College Prep/Advanced College Prep, Links/Pilot Curriculum Development
- Special Education North Curriculum Development
- Special Education North DBT curriculum
- Special Education North One School, One Book
- Special Education North Physics Non-Comp portfolio
- Special Education South ABA Training
- Special Education South Language Based Instruction
- Special Education South Literacy Skills
- Special Education South Student Support

World Languages

- World Languages Middle Schools Common Rubrics
- World Languages Middle Schools Professional Development Planning
- World Languages North Curriculum Development College Prep Italian
- World Languages North Curriculum Development: Chinese 5 Honors
- World Languages North Curriculum Development: Italian 4 Honors
- World Languages North Romance Languages: Articulation of 3rd and 4th Year Advanced College Prep
- World Languages North Spanish New text workshop
- World Languages North Spanish Textbook Search
- World Languages North Transition to AP framework: Italian 4 Honors Curriculum
- World Languages South Articulation of French Curriculum
- World Languages South Spanish 5 Curriculum Revision