

Science Leadership Network
April 15, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Doug Wilson, Interim Science Center Coordinator

Attendees: Richard Baier, Veronica Budelmann, Jeff Craig, Darlene Devendorf, Thomas Fraher, Todd Freeman, Karrie Frey, Dianna Joslyn, Linda Law, Karen Ocque, Kristin Reichert, John Rice, David Taft, Sharon Wisbey

New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS) [SciLeadersMeeting_NYSLS.pptx](#)
NYSSLS and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards)

- The Board of Regents has approved the [NYS Strategic Plan for Science](#)*. This plan focuses on adapting the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to create the NYS Science Learning Standards
- The timeline of the plan provides for a proposal for adoption to go before the Board of Regents in the Winter 2016. The perspective shared was that this is an ambitious timeline as the process is already behind schedule.
- At this time, the feedback that is being solicited from the “science community” is focused upon the identification of content that might be missing from the NGSS.

Professional Development – Is there interest in PD for science teachers that would be provided by science teachers?

[SciLeadersMeeting_NYSLS.pptx](#)

- Science PD Survey – for Teachers by Teachers. A survey was created and shared with the Science Leadership Network (to share with teachers) related to PD attitudes and needs. The survey was available from 2/27/15 – 4/6/15. There were 53 responses to the survey.

Survey Results:

- A high percentage of respondents were moderately or highly interested in this form of PD (“by Teachers for Teachers”)
- 44% would prefer a “full day” experience
- 18% could not attend during a normal school day
- 50% indicated that the PD should be relevant to their classroom, ready for implementation and provided by experienced (“been there, done that”) individuals
- About 83% of respondents preferred to collaborate with teachers who teach the same content area
- Teachers shared topics for which they would be willing to provide PD
- Teachers selected from a list of topics items/categories of PD. High on the list were: sharing opportunities with colleagues, lab equipment, Google Technology. Other PD topics and general comments were shared via the survey.
- The general consensus of the group was that providing PD (for Teachers by Teachers) is an item to act upon.
 - Some PD opportunities should be provided over the Summer as to facilitate implementation in the coming school year (for example – Google classroom).
 - The interest in forming PD communities by content area (sharing opportunities with colleagues) has a history as this once existed with funding through Title II.
 - The Master Teacher program could be a source of PD providers.

- The Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers could serve as a model for PD (subject area focused) and provided locally (i.e. OCM BOCES)

Advances in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program

- Advance Placement is undergoing a comprehensive redesign, revising several subjects per year. The goal is to design and develop revised courses that promote deep understanding and retention by defining and constraining the content so that students have ample opportunity during the school year to develop excellence and understanding through sustained focus on key concepts and practice of essential skills.
- This looks similar to the NGSS approach to science education (content and practices).
- Perhaps we should examine (research) how the AP “people” approached this redesign.

Looking Forward, Next Steps

- Possible outcomes of the general discussion of the meeting in determining some next steps:
 - Looking at what can/should be done to facilitate teachers looking more closely at the NGSS and identifying possible curriculum modifications well before the NYS SLS decisions are finalized
 - Facilitating the offering of a summer workshop for Science Teachers focused upon utilizing Google Classroom (Technology) – aka Google Boot Camp
 - Devising a plan for facilitating the forming/meeting of PD communities by science content area, using the Master Teachers

***Note:** Links to files or websites mentioned in the Minutes can be found on the [Science Leadership webpage](#) of the OCM BOCES [Science Center website](#).