

## Middle Level Principals Meeting Thursday, October 13, 2011

### Précis

#### Updates

- [SED Update](#)
- Roundtable
  - Don't forget to order your tests through the portal
  - Increasingly, districts are using google mail; get your district name reserved if you haven't already. Districts seem to be migrating to the Google platform.
- Jessica Cohen (District Superintendent) and Colleen Viggiano (Assistant Superintendent for Student Services) came and presented some certificates of appreciation to schools for hosting BOCES programs. Solvay, West Genesee, and Homer are hosting middle-level special education classrooms for BOCES. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing program is located in Solvay. The SKATE program for students with severe autism is housed at Camillus Middle.

#### Meeting Topics

- **Common Core Implementation (so far)**
  - ELA and math teachers recognize that they have a new curriculum more than other teachers (the technical subjects) recognize what they have to change. The assessment piece seems to be missing which is contributing to the reluctance.
  - Science and social studies can fit the six shifts into their curriculum maps.
  - Templates for unit planning are being developed to help teachers with this work. Some districts are collaborating on the effort (five in Cortland County)
  - Show the engageNY.org six shift videos might help. You could show them in team meetings, which might also make team meetings more instructional in nature.
  - Team meetings in one school, on Wednesdays are now called Common Core Wednesdays and they are working on their CCLS efforts (or Mondays in another districts). This is facilitated by a master schedule that builds in both common discipline planning time as well as common team time.
  - Introductory training occurred in the summer, but the technical subjects less so.
  - Use the math [videos](#) from the Hunt Institute (Vermont's page) rather than the math videos on engageNY.org.
  - Non-fiction literacy is being emphasized in one district's APPR.
- **APPR (so far)**
  - For the local 20%, security of the local assessments is an issue. The suggestion is to store them like 3-8 tests – in a secure location for at least one year. What are districts using:
    - Local assessments developed by teams of teachers
    - In some cases the tests are developed by the subsequent grades' teachers.
    - In case, there is some growth opportunities built in to the local 20%
    - Using old state test questions
  - What about recording mini-observations? Local procedures will dictate how these are recorded and factored into the summative score. How about the storage of the evidence that is collected?

- Numbers of observations vary from district to district:
  - One full + 3 mini-observations
  - Tenured: One formal + 3 minis (alternating years with 5 minis)/Nontenured: 3 formal + a mini
  - Based on years of service
  - Two formal (or one)
  - Many districts are still working this out through their process
- So far, districts are choosing either Danielson or NYSUT. This was before Marshall's were approved, however.
- One district has a Google form they are working on that collects their evidence from mini-observations and then stores them in a Google doc. Jeff is going to investigate a session about setting this up and/or using it.

**Future meetings (and locations)**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| December 15, 2011 | Center Conference Room |
| February 2, 2012  | Center Conference Room |
| April 5, 2012     | Center Conference Room |
| June 7, 2012      | Center Conference Room |