

MAY 2023

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

*The monthly newsletter of highlights in
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*



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PORTRAIT OF A HASTINGS LEARNER (POHL)

Grade level representatives from the high school student union have been facilitating POHL middle and high school student focus groups to gain input around four action steps that have been designed in conjunction with the Portrait process:

- (1) Enhanced authentic learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary lessons/units
- (2) An advisory-like opportunity to support SEL and students' sense of belonging
- (3) A community charter around behavioral expectations
- (4) Restorative practices

The student representatives provided Melissa Szymanski with a talking point sheet with a summary of feedback from students related to each of the action steps. This feedback will be critical for our next step, which will be to assemble action step subgroups and develop action plans. Students have offered to come speak to the subgroups to provide an overview of the student input.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education team met with district-level administrators to delve more deeply into adaptive physical education instruction for students with gross motor challenges, one of the recommendations coming out of the curriculum review cycle process. The department discussed assessment methodologies that could be used to identify students' strengths and areas of need.

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

Our final Teaching for Equity and Social Justice professional learning session for the 22-23 school year took place earlier this week. Participants included high school English teachers, social studies teachers, ENL teachers, special educators and administrators. The session focused on the history of race and educational inequities. Embedded in the session was work around the NYS Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Framework. Thank you to HEF for this opportunity, which resulted from a generous grant.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members of the Special Education Advisory Committee are in the process of meeting with the faculty of each building to share the process and outcomes they have been involved in since July 2022. This process has already taken place at the high school. Committee members also shared information about the professional learning pilot focused on data analysis that will be launched over the summer as a result of their work. The committee is in the process of gathering feedback on areas of need, also related to data analysis, which will serve to inform differentiated professional learning for the future.

We are now working to create a series of draft action plans related to the change ideas that the group identified through their ongoing improvement science process. Each action plan is structured to include the goal, action steps, purpose, resources, timeframe, success metrics, and progress evaluation. Draft action plans will be brought to the final special education advisory committee meeting for review and final input. A pilot will be launched in June 2023 to enhance capacity in data analysis, one of the goals identified through the work. A more comprehensive report will be provided at the June 20th Board of Education meeting.

HILLSIDE MATHEMATICS

A consultant from *Reveal*, the new elementary mathematics resource that was selected by the Hillside Mathematics Committee, met with the entire elementary faculty to introduce the *Reveal* resources, bring them through a lesson, and answer any questions they had. Follow-up professional learning focused on the first two units will be conducted for each grade level over the course of the next month in order to set teachers up for success in the fall.