

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

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



In this Issue:

HILLSIDE MATHEMATICS INQUIRY

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

WORLD LANGUAGES INQUIRY

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
COMMITTEE**



HILLSIDE MATHEMATICS INQUIRY

A team of teachers, representative of each grade, special education, and mathematics intervention, met to begin the mathematics Phase I curriculum inquiry process at Hillside. This work was planned and co-facilitated by Cathy Williams, mathematics consultant from YouCubed (Stanford University), Amy Cazes, and Melissa Szymanski. Pre-session work involved reading articles about fluency, groupitizing, and visual networks. Session work included engaging with multiple mathematics learning activities, exploring the connections between conceptual understanding, computational/procedural skills and problem solving, discussing articles, beginning to develop a shared vision grounded in research, and understanding the prior work of the K-12 mathematics committee.

WORLD LANGUAGES INQUIRY

Katie Paz, World Languages Department Chairperson, and Melissa Szymanski have been working together to lead a Phase I curriculum inquiry process. Last week they met with members of the middle and high school world languages department to begin the work. This initial session began with looking at revisions to the New York State standards, with a focus on interpersonal and presentational communication modes. Teachers shared activities and assessments across the levels they teach, identifying what was already being done within these two modes. They watched webinars to deepen their understanding of each mode, explored student work, and began engaging in calibration exercises to align around proficiency expectations.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Education Advisory committee continues to delve more deeply into the improvement science process to address the identified problem of practice, academic performance disparities for students with disabilities. This month the committee solidified their aim, to increase self-efficacy for students with disabilities, based on themes in the peer-reviewed literature that emerged. A more comprehensive presentation about the work of this group over time was given at the October 25, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

OCTOBER 2022

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMITTEE

Earlier this month, members of the Professional Learning Committee came together to review faculty survey feedback about the fall 2022 Superintendent's Conference Days, begin discussion around 2023 Superintendent's Conference Days based on the formative survey data, and discuss an addendum to the Professional Development Plan. 63 members of the faculty responded to the Superintendent's Conference Day surveys. Though most responses were from teachers, 16% of respondents were from faculty members in other roles. Overall satisfaction with the Superintendent's Conference Days was high overall, with 81% indicating a favorable experience and 13% indicating a neutral experience. Curriculum collaboration was the highest rated experience across the three days, with 92% of respondents reporting it as favorable.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Diversity Committee, a group that includes students, teachers, parents, members of the Board of Education, and administrators, came together for the first time this month. The session focused on updates regarding Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month, Racial Equity Week (and a potential shift to embedding this more systematically), and the high school affinity group student fundraiser. The group discussed the teacher toolkit that they created last year and began discussion around committee goals for the current year.