

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, Elizabeth Porter, Rita Volkmann (remote), Beverly Washington (remote), Jay Weitlauf

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Horgan, Matthew Shulman

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Lisa Hernandez Corcoran, Ben Moon, Kathy Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF AUGUST 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Ackerman, Weitlauf: To approve the August 21, 2023 meeting minutes with the addition under item III of “The Board requested that all the verbal comments from the survey be sent to the Board.”
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. REVIEW OF SUMMER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Superintendent Austin and Dr. Piazza gave an overview of the Professional Learning for Teachers during the summer of 2023. (Attachments #1, #2)

Dr. Piazza introduced the team of the book clubs. (Attachment #3)

- Lisa Hernandez Corcoran, Literacy Consultant for K-5, gave an overview of *Shifting the Balance*. She noted that there were 38 participants and that 6 shifts were talked about.
- Kathy Wilson, MYP Coordinator, gave an overview of *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics K-12*. She noted that there were 22 participants.
- Ben Moon, STEM Magnet Coach, gave an overview of *Science Notebooks in Student-Centered Classrooms*. He noted that there were 14 participants.

VI. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Chairperson Shepardson Watson noted that she and Superintendent Austin had reviewed the Tracking Sheet and the Board Meeting Template and edited items on the tracking sheet where appropriate and/or added items to the Template to ensure they were addressed at the appropriate time.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter: To adjourn at 7:27 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools
Professional Learning - Summer 2023

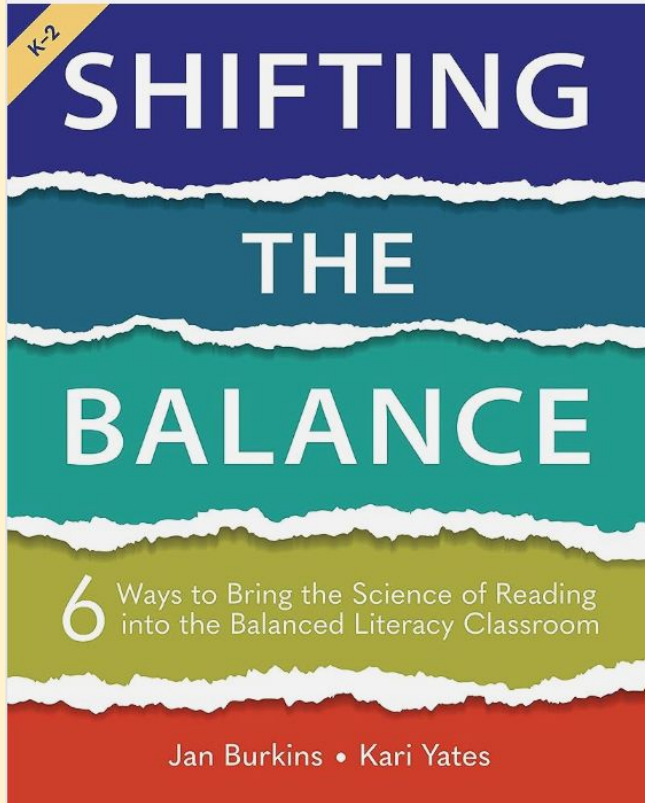
Number of Teachers	Professional Development	Level
1	Wilson Training	K-5
1	NMSI AP Biology	9-12
2	Mentor Training	K-12
1	Project Lead the Way	9-12
4	GEM-Net/Navy STEM Coalition Summer Institute - 3 day course	K-12
14	Multilanguage Learners Professional Development - 2 day course	K-12
2	Project O B-Wet program	K-5
1	CFLM Landscape of Decimals - 2 day course	K-5
2	CFLM Landscape of Division Training - 2 day course	K-5
5	CFLM Elementary Math Workshop	K-5
13	Science Book Club	K-5
15	Building Thinking Classrooms	6-12
34	Shifting the Balance	K-5

Groton Public Schools
Curriculum Planning work
Summer 2023

Level	Course	Action
FHS	ASL 4	New
FHS	Naval Sciences	New
FHS	Topics in 20th Century	New
FHS	American History 10	Modification
FHS	Black Literature-Elective	Modification
FHS	Botany Curriculum	Modification
FHS	EdRising	Modification
FHS	ELA Curriculum & Unit Planning	Modification
FHS	Film-Elective	Modification
FHS	Honors Algebra I	Modification
FHS	Human Biology Honors	Modification
FHS	Journalism-Elective	Modification
FHS	Maritime History I	Modification
FHS	Maritime History II	Modification
FHS	MYP Personal Project	Modification
FHS	Sociology	Modification
FHS	World Language	Modification
GMS	Algebra	Modification
GMS	American History 8	Modification
GMS	ELA Curriculum & Unit Planning	Modification
GMS	ELL Curriculum & Unit Planning	Modification
GMS	Individuals and Societies - 6	Modification
GMS	Math 7 / Math 7 Advanced	Modification
GMS	Topics in 20th Century	Modification
GMS	World Language	Modification
Elementary	ELA (K-5)	Modification
Elementary	Math Pacing Guide (K-5)	Modification
Elementary	Phonics Curriculum	Modification
Elementary	Reading Curriculum	Modification
Elementary	Science - K	Modification
Elementary	World Language	Modification

Summer Professional Learning Initiative

Grade K-2 Language Arts



38

Participants

- Classroom Teachers
- Interventionists
- SPED Staff

Current
Reading
Research and
Application



SHIFT 1

Rethinking
How Reading
Comprehension Begins



SHIFT 2

Recommitting to
Phonemic Awareness
Instruction



SHIFT 3

Reimagining
the Way We
Teach Phonics



SHIFT 4

Revising High-
Frequency Word
Instruction



SHIFT 5

Reinventing the
Ways We Use MSV
(3 Cueing Systems)



SHIFT 6

Reconsidering
Texts for Beginning
Readers



SHIFT 2

Recommitting to
Phonemic Awareness
Instruction



SHIFT 3

Reimagining
the Way We
Teach Phonics



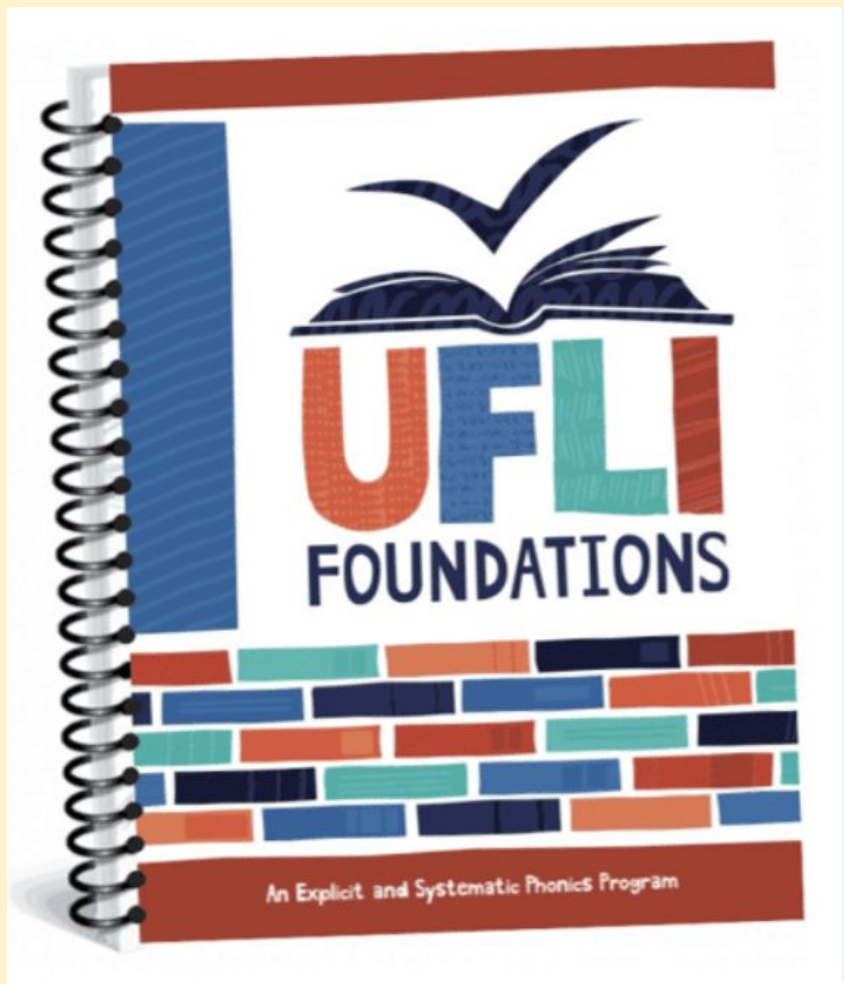
SHIFT 4

Revising High-
Frequency Word
Instruction

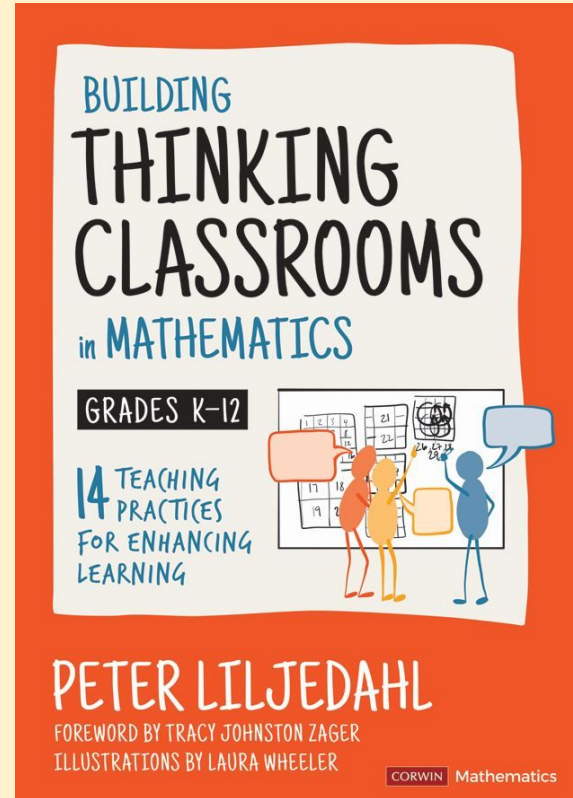


SHIFT 6

Reconsidering
Texts for Beginning
Readers



Building Thinking Classrooms



21 Math teachers

1 brave ELA teacher

14 practices to get students to do the thinking. Thinking students are engaged students.

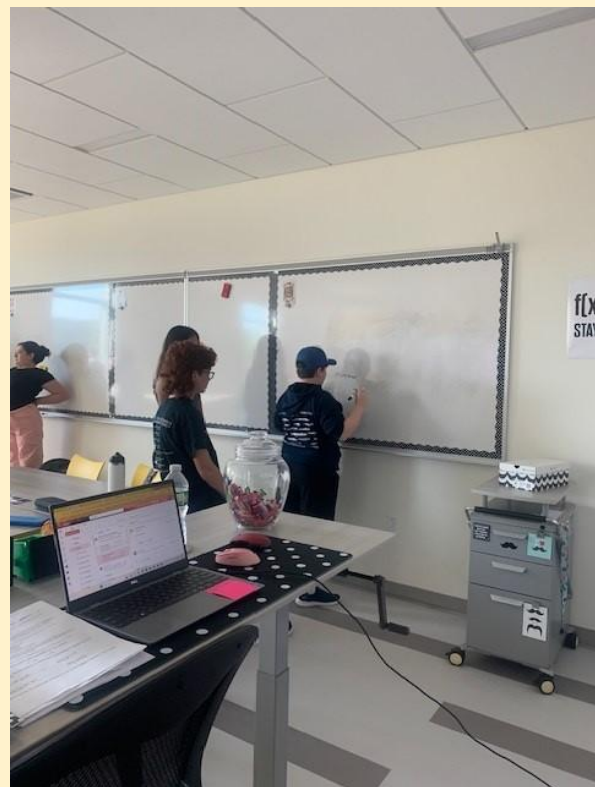
Tool Kits

Tool kit #1- implemented at the same time and before any of the other practices.

1. Random groups of 3
2. Work on vertical, erasable surfaces
3. Give thinking tasks

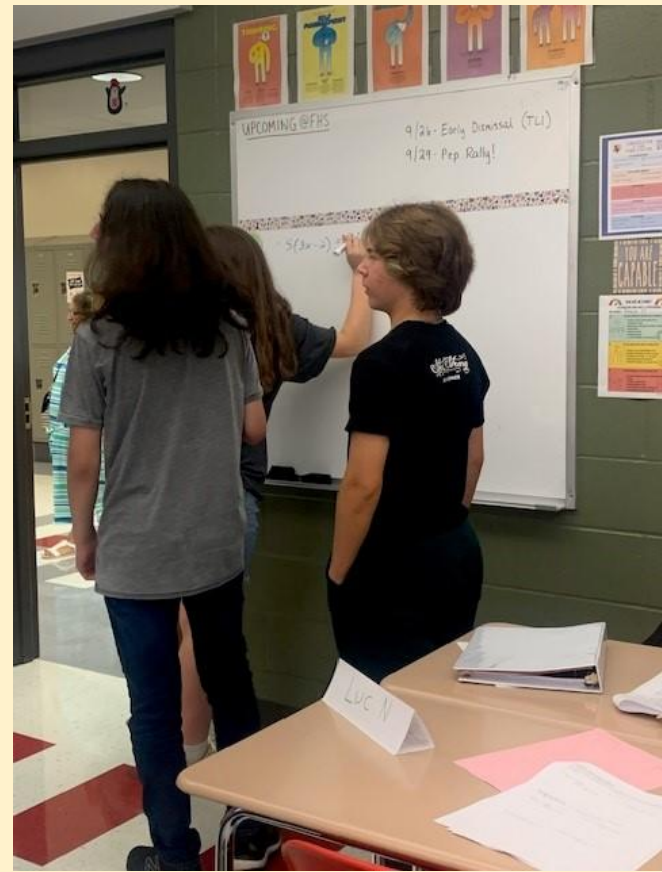
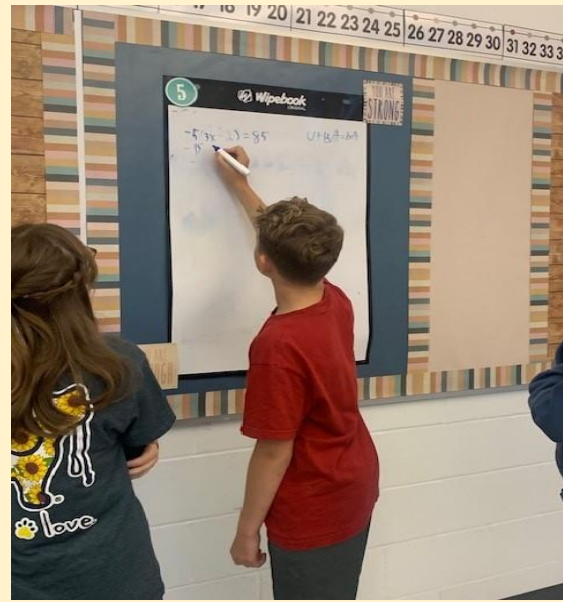
This is where the teachers are starting. As they progress through the year, they can add in the other practices.

Math 8
Groton Middle School
with Anna Stout



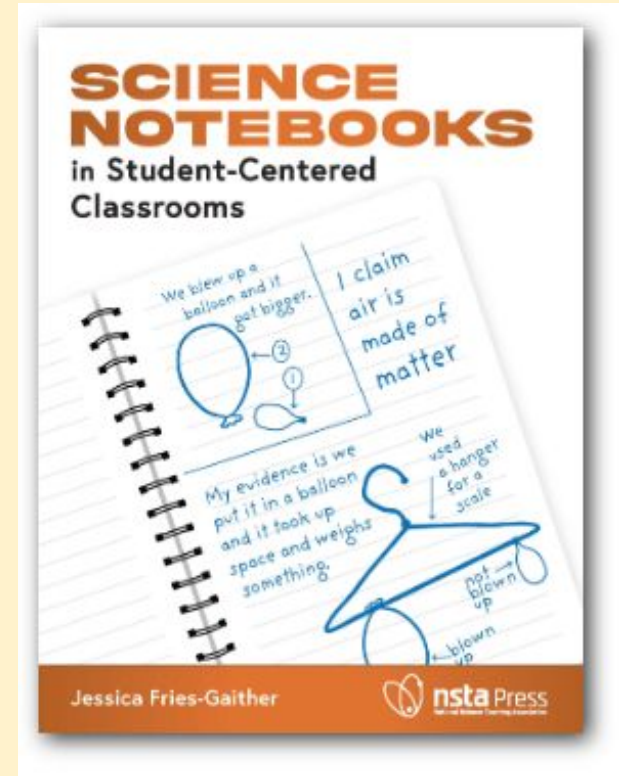
Honors Algebra II

Fitch High School with
Allison Harvey

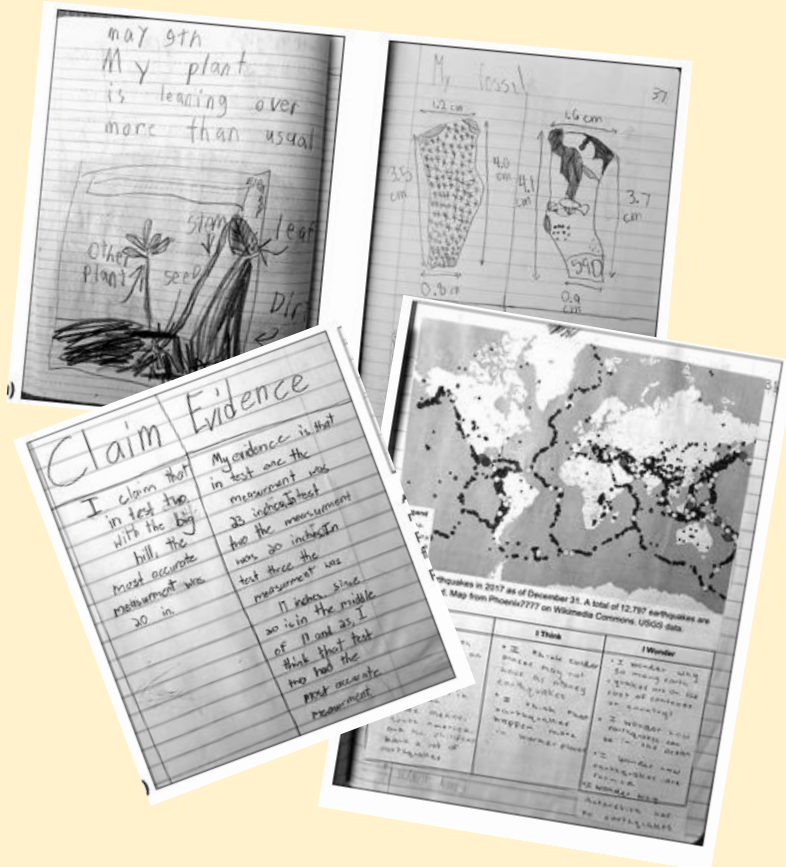


Science Notebooks in Student Centered Classrooms

- 13 Participants
- Elementary science task force
- In-Person and Zoom
- Kindergarten-High School Teachers & Administrators
- Live Q&A with author
- Concepts and Practical Tools



Key Takeaways



- Student Centered Science Classrooms
- ABC-CBV
- Supporting Literacy Development
- Practical Tools & Notebook Workshops
- Notebooks as Formative Assessment

Next Steps

- Development of Science Notebook launch lessons
- Development of Notebook Workshops
- Learning share with teams and schools
- Coaching support targeting grades 4 & 5
- Vertical articulation of key science practices and skills

