



Lincoln Public Schools

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Mary L. Sterling, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

To: School Committee
From: Mary Sterling
Re: Report on Summer Curriculum and Professional Development
Date: August 25, 2011

Once again, Lincoln Public Schools teachers and administrators were actively involved in summer work projects to further their professional learning and to develop the district's curriculum and approaches to assessment. Funding came in part from the district budget and in large part from federal funds through Title IIA and the ARRA stimulus grant. In addition, the Lincoln School Foundation supported several summer projects in elementary science. Over 175 contracts were issued to teachers to participate in projects from an examination of preschool early literacy to an exploration of using iPads with students. In addition, teachers and administrators pursued their own professional learning, often funded through the district's conference and course funds.

The district-funded summer work projects were organized to address district goals and serve two purposes: to continue building on initiatives already begun in the district and to start work on new initiatives slated for the coming school year. The chart at the end of this document lists all district projects by number, title, purpose, and faculty participation. Highlights of some significant projects are described below.

- ◆ **Standards-based Assessing and Reporting** This project built on the grade 4/5 pilot last year and helped prepare teachers to use a standards-based system in the coming year. Fifty-six K-6 teachers and specialists learned about the key principles and practical approaches to standards-based teaching and assessment. Three teachers from other districts who have experience with standards-based approaches joined the sessions to share their ideas with our teachers and respond to their questions. Teams were able to meet and prepare assessments and learning targets for students.
- ◆ **Developing Mathematical Ideas: Building a System of Tens** After a successful experience with this course in winter/spring 2011, a section of the course was offered to K-8 teachers of mathematics as a two-day summer start with four afternoon follow-up sessions next fall. Twenty-one teachers signed up to learn about the concepts, instructional strategies, and assessment approaches that deepen student understanding and skill in mathematics. The course adds depth to the instructional guides available in the *Everyday Math* and *Impact Math* programs.
- ◆ **Developmental Design in Middle School** Principal Erich Ledebuhr and fifteen teachers participated in a week-long regional training in Developmental Design in Hudson, MA. This is the second year for Lincoln School teachers and the first year for Hanscom Middle School teachers to have the opportunity to work on principles and strategies to strengthen school culture and provide continuity for social and emotional development which begins through the Responsive Classroom in elementary grades. As was true last year, teachers ended the week-long training with great enthusiasm for the experience and for their plans with students in the coming school year.

- ◆ **National Core Standards Alignment** A small group of teachers and teacher leaders met with the Assistant Superintendent to review the new Massachusetts 2011 Frameworks in English Language Arts and Mathematics, which have been revised to align with the United States “Common Core Standards.” The group took note of the state timeline for implementing the new frameworks, examined the major features of the new frameworks, and developed a set of suggestions for district work in the coming year.

Another aspect of professional development occurs every summer: conference and course attendance funded through our professional development funds. The range of learning that administrators and teachers undertake is noteworthy and expands our collective knowledge and expertise as a faculty. Some examples of the conference and course attendance are:

- ◆ Three faculty members and three administrators participating in EMI courses. These courses focus on achievement gaps, self-efficacy for underperforming students, and conversations about race.
- ◆ Four faculty members participated in a conference at Lesley University on non-fiction reading and writing.
- ◆ Four faculty members attended conferences or courses about literacy.
- ◆ Two music teachers attended a conference or a course in music education

The amount and variety of professional work and learning undertaken in the summer by members of the Lincoln Public School faculty and administration gives evidence that the district makes professional learning a high priority. Raising the level of knowledge and instructional expertise is clearly one of the best ways to guarantee high quality teaching, which in turn is a key leverage point in raising student achievement. We are fortunate to have the resources and the commitment to support continuous learning for those who work for the Lincoln Public Schools.

2011	Date	Summer Work Project	Hanscom	Lincoln	Location
1	June 27-28	Standards-based teaching, assessment, and reporting -- a working session for teacher teams K-6 and opportunity for professional development	26 2 district	30	Lincoln School, Library and classrooms
2	June 29-30	Developing Mathematical Ideas -- a course to develop teacher expertise in content knowledge, assessment, and a range of instructional strategies	10	11	Lincoln School Library
9	June 27	Middle School Science -- session to complete the three year restructuring of the 6-8 science curriculum	1	2	Science classroom
11	June 27-28	Preschool Early Literacy -- continued development of the preschool literacy program	3 1 district 1 admin	3	Preschool
10	July 27	HPS Preparation with principal -- session for team leaders to meet and plan with new principal	5 leaders 1 admin		HPS conference room
6	Aug 1- 5	Developmental Design for Middle Schools -- weeklong training for middle school teachers; continuing the foundational work of Responsive Classroom	6 1 admin	8	Hudson, MA
8	Aug 8	National Core Standards Alignment -- session to plan for district goal to align Lincoln Learning Expectations with new standards adopted by Massachusetts	1 2 district 1 admin	1	Hartwell Multipurpose Room
7	Aug 15	FLES -- curriculum development to align elementary foreign language program grades 3-5 with program in grade six	1 1 district	1	Foreign Language classroom
4	Aug 16-18	Responding to Challenging Student Behavior -- a K-8 session for teachers to learn new concepts and strategies in a "strengths-based approach" to guiding student behavior	16 2 district 1 admin	6	Hartwell Multipurpose Room
5	Aug 23, 24	Technology: iPads with students -- training for teachers in using class sets of iPads for a range of applications	13	12	Computer lab on each campus