

# CENTRAL BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 2

October 2003

**G**reetings from the Central Office. I would like to devote the majority of this newsletter to our Curriculum Mapping initiative and the recent October 3<sup>rd</sup> In-Service Day. *First of all..... Thank You!*

Our 15 facilitators did a great job of steering their groups to a productive and positive day. They had gathered earlier in the week for a full day of training with Bayard Klemasmith, our consultant from *FreshPond Education* in Cambridge. Together, they developed a day-long agenda of discussion topics, exercises, and background information about the process. On behalf of Tom Potter and myself, I thank you all: *Kristen Gordon, Irene Mottor, Brenda Bondini, Kathy King, Pat West, Teresa Dus, Dawn Frissell, Mike Cady, Colleen McCasland, Mary Kay McCloskey, Chris Kwasny, Jared Shannon, Amy Gelinis, Connie West, and Kathy Stocking Koza.*

### Secondly, the Feedback:

I have made it a point to solicit input from many different sources across all schools and grade levels. I am happy to report that the overall response to the day's activities, and to the process, was positive and upbeat. Certainly there are lingering questions about time, format, short and long term products, (etc).

We were still solidifying plans when this initiative was launched, but we didn't want to squander the time that Oct. 3 provided to begin this important work. I apologize for any confusion that you might have had. Your feedback, ideas, and energy are helping us ensure that we provide a plan and the support to ensure our students' right to a curriculum that is aligned and guaranteed. In fact, your feedback is helping us negotiate with the School Committee to provide at least two 1/2 days to complete this work.

### Next: Some Specific Issues:

Just prior to the in-service day, I published an information sheet regarding curriculum mapping and the work that we did last year to set the stage for this important process. To reiterate, the Strategic Planning Team identified this initiative as its most important goal in the overall quest to diminish our achievement gaps. It is funded in its entirety by Federal entitlement grants, some funding for software and some for consultants and professional development. To dispel some rumors that seem to have a long shelf life, none of this funding could have been used to rehire classroom teachers. Every dollar is being spent appropriately to the guidelines of the grants.

### Some Short Term Goals

Many additional issues were raised by various staff members during the afternoon sessions. I would love to be able to

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

#### MEMBERS PRESENT ON 10/14

Tom Callahan, Deb Bevan, Paul Swem, Teresa Dus, Jim Stankiewicz. A short term agenda for the next meeting was developed. Committee meetings are open to all staff, and we encourage you to attend on Nov. 4.

#### CBRS D CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thurs., Oct. 23** – School Committee @ 7:30 Craneville

**Tues., Nov. 4** – Prof/Dev. Committee – 3:15 Nessacus

**Tues., Nov. 4** – Ed. Sub. @ Central Office – 7:00,

**Thurs., Nov. 13** – School Committee, Nessacus

**Wed., Nov. 18** – P/T Conferences – 1/2 Day Release

say that each and every question has a ready and logical answer, but that just wouldn't be the case.

In the short term, we are working to clarify the following issues (and urge you to continue with some of the following):

- We need to clarify map formatting for more consistency;
- Begin to be more specific about assessment tools;
- We will be working towards defining 5-10 GLO's (*Guaranteed Learning Objectives*);
- Identify grade level facilitators prior to 1<sup>st</sup> 1/2 day release (March – pending approval of the School Committee)
- Work towards completing the "project and edit" process for maps for one course or subject area and continue using a diary approach to map a new area (ELA/Reading for elementary);
- We will be convening meetings with mapping facilitators to clarify map formatting, develop definition of assessment tools, and plan support for mappers.

### Some Long Term Goals

- By June, 2004: – We will have defined 5-10 GLO's and appropriate performance assessments in Math (or your 1<sup>st</sup> subject area);
- By June, 2005 – We will have defined 5-10 GLO's and appropriate performance assessments in ELA (or your 2<sup>nd</sup> subject area)
- Completed a diary of Social Studies and Science.
- Completed school master maps of one subject/grade level

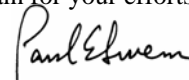
### Time Constraints:

Time constraints are real – and I wish I could make more time available. However, most Principals have made room in the staff meeting cycles for mapping, and I can get help to you during these sessions if you need some additional guidance.

The School Committee will be approached with a request for two additional 1/2-day releases later in the year. I am hopeful that they will authorize Mr. Potter to schedule them.

Thanks again for your efforts in this important area!

Sincerely,



Sept. 2003	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 2004	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Sept. 2004	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 2005	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June 2005
Project 1 <sup>st</sup> efforts		Edit first efforts and begin to think about Guaranteed Learning Opportunities – Math (or 1 <sup>st</sup> subject area)				Identify grade level Guaranteed Learning Opportunities and Performance Tasks – Math (or 1 <sup>st</sup> subject area)				Begin diary approach to Science and/or Social Studies		Continue editing efforts on the current subject area being mapped.				Identify grade level Guaranteed Learning Opportunities and Performance Tasks – Reading/ELA (or 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject area)			
		Diary ELA/Reading (or 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject area)								GLO's and Performance Tasks – ELA (or 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject area)		Diary another subject area							
		(Note: Two half day in-services are potentially scheduled for March and May, pending School Committee approval)										(Hopefully, two half day in-services will again be scheduled dedicated to the mapping process.)							