

# CENTRAL BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 8

May-June 2003

Greetings again from the Central Office. Not that I am in the habit of watching the clock or calendar, but could that be June I see coming up? Let's hope that this critical month produces better fiscal numbers from the Senate and our 5th town vote for passage of our budget.

This May/June newsletter is the 8<sup>th</sup> (and probably last) in a series of publications that I have been producing. I hope some of you have found them useful. I apologize for the delay of this issue – the NCLB Consolidated Grant process has consumed considerable amounts of my time and energy, and has placed similar constraints on other committee members that have given generously of their time and energy to see the process through. My sincere thanks are extended to all who helped produce “*the plan*”.

And speaking of the plan.....

## ***Strategic Planning Team: Stage II Ends***

The second (and lengthiest) stage of the process is over. You will recall that the goal of Stage I was the creation of a comprehensive, data driven needs assessment. It was emailed to the DOE on April 18. The main goal of this second of three phases was to identify strategies to implement to overcome the performance gaps identified in Stage I. The resulting document – all 126 pages – was emailed to the DOE on Monday, May 19th. This 3-Year Strategic Plan will set the stage for virtually all of professional and curriculum development efforts for the next three years. In summary, there are four main goals that will be addressed:

### ***Priority # 1:*** Curriculum Mapping – K-12 – All Subjects.

Some strategies: use of Atlas web-based software to create comprehensive curriculum diaries and maps; professional development; and grade level meetings.

***Priority # 2:*** Coordination and Integration of Curriculum & Professional Development. Some strategies: staff person hired to coordinate curriculum and professional development K-12, and create and monitor course content to be posted on web for teacher access to PDP content for re-certification efforts; creation of a “Virtual Campus” for all staff hosted on our website.

***Priority # 3:*** Continued Expansion of Standards Based Instruction and Assessment. Some strategies: continued deployment and use of StandardsMaster formative assessment software; deployment of other Renaissance Learning Company tools: Accelerated Math and Reader.

***Priority # 4:*** Increase Emphasis and Time-On Learning of Process Writing and Authentic Assessment. Some strategies: district-wide professional development; Reading Recovery, the Writers’ Workshop, Cross-Curricular Reading/Writing, and a possible realignment of Title I.

## ***Strategic Planning Team: Phase III Begins***

The short phase! Sometime in the first week of June the DOE will email me an extensive Microsoft Excel workbook along with the exact entitlement amounts for the four grants we are submitting. After juggling about \$800,000 of funding requests into \$400,000 actual entitlement dollars, I will resubmit the workbook by June 30.

***NOTE:*** The full 124 page 3-year plan (Word Document) will be available on the Curriculum page of our web site beginning Monday, May 19. ([www.cbrsd.org](http://www.cbrsd.org))

On to other matters:

## ***Fourth Meeting Held Of E/LA Benchmark Team***

On Wednesday, May 7, a group of elementary teachers met at Nessacus to finish the K-5 portion of this key document. The middle school portions are almost complete. This effort will conclude a two-year effort at benchmarking two important core-curricular areas. Last year’s K-8 Math Benchmarks were completed in May and distributed to all teachers. I hope to have relevant portions of this year’s document on teachers’ desks sometime in mid-June.

I want to thank team members for their efforts that extend back to January: Kathy DiNicola, Pat West, Tom Fielding, Dottie Walton, Nancy Keiper, Rita Furlong, Irene Motor, Nancy Gokey, Mary Kay McCloskey, Barbara Robb, Amy Abramovich, Marg Morrison, Pat Geller, and Janet Carter.

## ***DOE Summer Content Institutes: Sign Up NOW!***

Mass DOE Summer Institutes are again being offered in a variety of content areas across the state. Many of our staff have taken advantage of these excellent offerings over the past few years. Unfortunately, many of the institutes are held in the eastern part of the state and will require a bit of a commute. A copy of the course offering booklet will be available in each school office and on-line at the DOE:

[www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/cinstitute/03/brochure.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/cinstitute/03/brochure.pdf)

*Paul Swern*, Assistant Superintendent

*The Professional Development Committee seeks your input into the content of our professional development efforts. PLEASE provide ideas!*

## ***Postscript & Other Issues of Interest***

- Summer mode at the Central Office will be (I hope) a bit less hectic. We will be available most of the time, except for some vacation time parceled out randomly throughout July and August. We are all still available in person, by phone or email. Don’t be strangers! Stop by or call with your concerns.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Elaine Dindio, Misha Forrester, Bruce Collina, Tom Callahan, Andrew Garcia, Neil Freebern, Deb Bevan, Paul Swern, Teresa Dus, Jim Stankiewicz, Jan Miller, Edna Dugas, Susan Henson, and Estelle Graziola.  
Committee meetings are open to all staff.

## **CBRS D CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Thurs., May 29** – School Committee, BTES

**Wed., June 4** Class Night - Wahconah

**Sun., June 8** – Wahconah Graduation at 1:30

**Tues., June 10** – Last “CBRS D Best Practices” Class

**Tues., June 10** – Education Subcommittee, 7:00, CO

**Thurs. June 12** – School Committee, Kittredge

**Wed., June 18** – Last day of school for students