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Welcome

Please join me in welcoming Richard Gusenburg to the Region 16 Community. Mr. Gusenburg is the new Region 16 Business Manager. Please read on about Mr. Gusenburg on page 3.

Region 16 Teacher of the Year 2010

I am pleased to announce the Region 16 Teacher of the Year for 2010 is John Polletta. Mr. Polletta is a fifth grade teacher at Laurel Ledge school. The Teacher of the Year committee is comprised of the Professional Development committee and the building principals. Mr. Polletta is an outstanding teacher and very deserving of this honor. He will be working this summer on his application to the state for possible recognition at that level. Please join me in honoring Mr. Polletta.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Due to the changes in state and federal laws, Region 16 and all other districts in the state must adopt a new procedure for identifying students who are not achieving and may be eligible for Special Education Services. The model for this is called Response to Intervention (RTI). The change is a systemic one, in that, it will focus on helping all children who experience difficulties with learning rather than waiting for the child to fail before addressing their learning needs. The new model is a three-tiered approach to intervention that begins at the first signs of difficulty. Each tier represents an increased level of intervention with the goal being remediation of the difficulty. The Region has embraced the new model and has already begun training staff in its implementation. Two teachers, Jill Dolan and Michele LoRusso, will be on special assignment next year as our RTI Facilitators. Their role is to assist teachers and administrators in the full implementation of the new model.

Start of the School Year

The first day of school for students is August 31, it will be a full day. The week will be short for the children, though, with a Professional Development day on Friday, the kids get a 4 day Labor Day Weekend!

Professional Development Update

The Region 16 Professional Development Committee has completed the planning for staff development for the 2009-2010 school year. A primary focus of the training will be on implementing RTI as described above. We will also continue our very important work on the creation of common formative assessments using the Understanding by Design model we adopted last year. This summer significant work is being done to develop and refine curriculum for grades PreK-12. Special emphasis is being placed to ensure our learning outcomes align to the state standards.

Board of Education Goals

Goal 1: We will develop and implement a well articulated PK-12 curriculum in all disciplines to achieve our mission.

Goal 2: We will develop opportunities to attract and retain high quality staff.

Goal 3: We will provide the necessary materials and facilities to achieve our mission.

Goal 4: We will continually improve communications with the community in order to better inform them and develop stronger relationships.

Board of Education Mission, Goals and Action Plans

Mission Statement: The mission of regional School District #16 is to create a better world by helping each student reach his or her highest potential.

Goals and Action Plans

Goal 1: We will develop and implement a well articulated PK-12 curriculum in all disciplines to achieve our mission

Action Plan 1: Develop, distribute and communicate a clear skills scope and sequence in the major curricular areas (Language Arts, Science, Math and Social Studies) PreK-12 to strengthen teaching and learning.

Action Plan 2: Ensure effective teaching and learning.

Action Plan 3: Collect and use data analysis to inform and strengthen teaching and learning.

Goal 2: We will develop opportunities to attract and retain high quality staff

Action Plan 1: Improve the visibility of Region 16 with the public and educational communities in order to attract high quality staff.

Action Plan 2: Support growth and promote leadership opportunities for teachers.

Goal 3: We will provide the necessary materials and facilities to achieve our mission

Action Plan 1: Implement Marketing proposal for capital projects and budget approval

Action Plan 2: Provide technological resources and services that are necessary to promote teaching and learning.

Action Plan 3: Provide required furniture, equipment and supplies to facilitate teaching and learning.

Goal 4: We will continually improve communications with the community in order to better inform them and develop stronger relationships.

Action Plan 1: To continue to implement technology to enhance communication.

Action Plan 2: Increase media communications highlighting student achievement and activities and school district news.

**Region 16's New Business Manager
Richard Gusenburg**



We welcome Richard Gusenburg as our new Region 16 Business Manager. He comes to us from Region 15 where he served as an elementary principal for 32 years as well as interim positions as a business manager. Mr. Gusenburg has a deep understanding of both the academic and business aspects of education. His first official day in the Region is July 1, 2009.

Discipline	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Math	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation	Research
Science	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation	Research
Applied Tech.	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation	Research
World Language	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation	Research	Writing/Design
Language Arts	Research	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation
Social Studies	Research	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation
Fine Arts	Research	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation
PE/Health	Research	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation
Guidance	Research	Writing/Design	Implementation/ Purchasing	Implementation	Evaluation

PROPOSED REGION 16 - 5 YEAR CURRICULUM EVALUATION CYCLE

Year 1 - Evaluation

Conduct K-12 curricula evaluation - what works/what doesn't
 Establish priorities for the 5 year process
 Assign roles and responsibilities K-12
 Get to know each other
 Establish curriculum Teams
 Data Analysis

Year 3 - Writing/Design

Begin the writing/re-writing of curriculum, including new course proposals to BOE
 Finishing writing by end of summer
 Establish budget priorities by Nov/Dec
 Establish K-12 writing committees
 Submit purchase order during spring /summer before year 4

Year 2 - Research

Begin K-12 meetings to research existing curriculum
 Alignment to state standards
 Re-write goals and objectives
 Review Literature
 Review and Research Best Practices
 Establish writing curriculum schedule and projects

Year 4 - Implementation/Purchasing

Year 5 - Implementation

News from the Director of Technology, Bruce Bartmess

Instructional Technology: Interactive Response Systems

Staff members at Woodland High School and Long River Middle school have piloted Interactive Response Systems (commonly called *clickers*) during the 2008-2009 school year. These devices allow teachers to quickly gather responses from students to monitor student understanding of what is being taught. Normally during class, a teacher would ask students to respond to a question or review homework to determine if the class has comprehended the lesson. With Interactive Response Systems, every student has a device (clicker) and can enter in a response to the questions asked in class. These responses are then quickly tallied and displayed for the teacher so he/she can immediately know if the students understands the lesson at hand. Interactive Response Systems allows teachers to quickly address learning issues within the class, and alter their instruction to meet student learning needs.

Regional School District No. 16
207 New Haven Road
Prospect, CT 06712

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Board of Education

Dates to Remember

Please refer to the District 16 website, www.region16ct.org, to view the important dates specific to your school.

July

15 – BOE Meeting – Laurel Ledge

25 – Region 16 Golf Tournament at Traditions Golf Club

August

19 – BOE Meeting – Long River

31 – First Day of School

September

4 – No School, Prof. Dev. Day

7 – No School, Labor Day