

Thomaston Public Schools

For Immediate Release, Friday, February 12, 2016

Thomaston Public Schools Implement Continuous Professional Development

Thomaston Public Schools Hold Professional Development on February 12, 2016 in Support of Implementation of Curriculum in Mathematics, Technology and Language Arts

Thomaston, CT- On February 12, 2016, teachers took part in a series of professional development workshops which supported engagement, collaboration and discussion around the newly created curriculum that is being implemented this year in Language Arts, Mathematics and Technology. Led by a team of professionals from within district under the direction of Alisha DiCorpo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Thomaston Public Schools, Michelle Dayton and Preston Soeprasetyo as well as independent consultants for English Language Arts and Mathematics, shared information and supported work with the units in small group as an extension of their monthly work with the teachers. Teachers were excited to have opportunities to learn from each other and the consultant about how to implement with fidelity portions of the Readers and Writer's workshop elements which include mini lesson implementation and conferring with students. The Mathematics department's focus was on aligning resources to the new math curriculum and crafting lesson plans and assessments, while technology teachers prioritized resources that could be added to the curriculum and to their lesson plans across other subject areas. "The time allocated to teachers during this professional development day was not only professionally rewarding, but equally as important, provided much needed time to help teachers sort through their new learning and plan for application with teachers who teach similar content and teach different grade levels," stated DiCorpo.

The professional development held on February 12, 2016 was the third and final of three contractual days provided throughout each school year to teachers to support learning, development and implementation of strategies in order to improve instructional practices throughout district. These days compliment the monthly meetings during which teachers in district are afforded the opportunity to be guided through the units of study in each curriculum area, look closely and examine data from their curriculum assessments and ask questions of coaches which lead the discussions. "It is through this embedded professional development model in alignment with the full professional development days throughout the school year that we will collectively have the biggest impact on teacher practice and therefore will directly impact the implementation of curriculum in classrooms. As a district, we believe these efforts will lead to gains in student growth and achievement over time," DiCorpo said.

"This continues to be an exciting time for the Thomaston Public School community-parents, teachers, staff and students as we work towards fulfilling our mission to "Educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society." The first step in engaging stakeholders in the mission was to create curriculum that would challenge students. As we continue our next phase of professional learning throughout this school year and data collection and analysis, we seek to monitor student growth and engagement. It is through this

collective work that Thomaston will build on its pursuit of academic excellence for every student,” DiCorpo said.

####

For more information, press only:

Alisha DiCorpo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Thomaston Public Schools

adicorpo@thomastonschools.org