

Thomaston Public Schools

For Immediate Release, Friday, October 16, 2015

## **Thomaston Public Schools Implement Continuous Professional Development**

### **Thomaston Public Schools Hold Professional Development on October 9, 2015 in Support of Implementation of Curriculum in Mathematics, Technology and Language Arts**

**Thomaston, CT-** On October 9, 2015, 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 an independent consultant for English Language Arts, shared information and solicited feedback on implementation of the new curriculum this fall. Teachers were excited to learn 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, while technology teachers prioritized what new learning is needed to implement the curriculum as well as added resources while crafting lesson plans to be implemented during classes. "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 October 9, 2015 was the second 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. The next full day of professional development will take place on February 12, 2016. 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.

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**For more information, press only:**

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