

# SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Professional Development Committee

March 26, 2009

### Minutes

Attending: Glenn Spiegelman, Annmarie Uhl, Mike Fiorentino, Jeannine Carr,  
Beth Lipton, Paul Guglielmo, Mary Sculnick, Juliet Gevargis

Absent: Sue O'Neil, Christine Carmody, Kim Farry, Cathy Ascolese

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*The committee met for two hours and discussed highlights on staff development over the last 6 months and the plans for future staff development. Each building presented a comprehensive report on the full day staff development day and the continuation of this development and how it is showing up in the classroom. Below is just some highlights discussed. There was much more detail presented in the meeting.*

1. The teachers gave a lot of positive feedback on the format of the staff development day. Each level and building felt that this was an extremely productive day because good, solid, concrete lessons came out of the day. A survey was distributed using Survey Monkey to all staff. The staff was surveyed to see when they will be using these lessons in their classroom. This is a good resource for principals to observe the new, innovative lesson. Lynn shared the wiki page and some of the examples with the Committee. There were too many excellent examples to elaborate on.
2. Lynn hopes that next year BOCES will continue to focus on technology and create a County-wide share network. This could give us the ability to have a multi-district conference day.
3. All of the work created at this workshop is now available to all teachers. Lynn established a SOCSO collaboration wiki. Soon all of the projects and lesson plans can be accessed through wiki space.com
4. Principals are brainstorming how they can share all of the work in the building with the full staff and eventually the District.
5. Mary had a full day staff development day with the secretaries and the support staff including the TAs. Highlights:
  - a. The TAs had a presentation from Dr. Green elaborating on working with LD students. The TA enjoyed this presentation.
  - b. Secretaries received staff development on what is exceptional customer service.
  - c. There was time set aside so unions can all sit together and share practices together

- d. There was an opportunity for CPR training for those who wanted it, but unfortunately, it was cancelled due to an unforeseen circumstance for the instructor.
  - e. There was a Right to Know session.
  - f. There was a session on employee provider benefits.
  - g. In the future, the TAs look forward to Smart Board training. At this time, there were no classrooms available for this type of training.
  - h. The secretaries would like staff development on computer programs like Excel and Access.
6. Lynn summed up that at the May 28 meeting, a report about the PDP performance and rubrics will be presented to the BOE at a regular meeting. It will include what we have done District wide and what we plan to do. Lynn also talked about BOCES for next year. What does the District want to see offered through BOCES. This year Alan November (technology and education) and RTI was BOCES' focus. Lynn shared with us the services we accessed through BOCES.
  7. The Committee discussed the great work of Litlife, Schoolwide Consulting, Kathy Mason, and Maxine LaRaus. Each building and principal shared what was done in each building with these consultants and what they plan to do in the future. This will help us plan future staff development with these consultants.
  8. Building representatives and principals spoke about the professional development committees that are progressing in their respective buildings and the increased capacity of vertical teaming taking place among the elementary school buildings. Many buildings are experiencing great results with World Café, e-pals, skype, and wikis
  9. Lynn reported back on the sessions for the New Teacher Institute. There were 11 first-time teachers and four second-year teachers. There were five sessions. The sessions covered everything from lesson planning to differentiated instruction. Each session was staffed by District people. For example, Juliet Gevargis did a session on formative assessment.
  10. The new form for mini-grants was reviewed. This year, the grant money stayed the same, but the amount for the grants increased to \$1,500, 1,000, and 500. Hopefully this increase will entice more teachers. Deadline is Sept. 14, 2009.
  11. In-services courses were offered on line. Hopefully next year there will be more. This year, there was a New Teacher Institute Course, Smartboard, and Wikki Course.

**Next Meeting:            May 28, 2009**  
**4 pm**  
**SOMS Library**