

Regional School Unit #23 (Dayton, Old Orchard Beach, & Saco)



Saco Office
90 Beach Street
Saco, Maine 04072
Phone: 207.284.4505
Fax: 207.284.5951

Old Orchard Beach Office
28 Jameson Hill Road
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
Phone: 207.934.5751
Fax: 207.934.1917

Patrick R. Phillips
Superintendent of Schools

The ABC's of September from OCI

aka What happened in September from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction



Advisory Council – Advisory Council is thirty-strong and off to a great start. I believe all minutes can be viewed on the Advisory Committee icon on First Class. Thank you to Melissa Mowery from OOBHS for organizing our icon into folders. Our three committees are Curriculum and Instruction, whose focus is the Common Core and leading the remodeling of curriculum maps accordingly; Professional Development/Teacher Evaluation will help sustain our Skillful Teacher work and understanding of our rubrics; and Assessment, Data Analysis, and Reporting (ADARR) will help sustain information from last year's Data Course and support building data teams. ADARR will also roll out a new K-5 report card to emulate the teaching and learning of RSU classrooms, and will be the research behind SBAC information as we prepare for Spring 2015. Our next meeting is October 17th at SMS.

Barbara & Barbara – I'm very fortunate to be surrounded by Barbaras! Barbara Fletcher is our half-time Common Core Implementation Strategist. She will be sharing her knowledge of the CCSS with Math and ELA CDTs, helping design a website and/or blog to assist staff, and working with Advisory Council Leadership as well. Barbara is available at Central Office starting at 12:30 each day. Her extension at central is 36 – give her a call anytime. ☺ And Barbara Stasio has helped me in all facets of my transition to central office. Technically she's the Administrative Assistant for Curriculum and Instruction, but the truth is she does that and more at Central Office. Barb's extension is 33 if you ever need to touch base about PO's, CEUs, or anything related to our title grants. I have lots to learn, and thank goodness Barb is a patient person. ☺

CCSS – Although our CDTs have been immersed in common core alignment for at least three years, common core information seems to be hot in the press right now. We at RSU #23 are planning informational sessions for parents and community members. Leading this work will be a Common Core Advisory Committee, chaired by SMS teacher Gwyneth

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Nicholson. This summer, our union received a grant to send a team of teachers and administrators to TURN's Conference in Chicago. (TURN stands for Teacher's Union Reform Network.) The group met educators from across the country who have been immersed in CCSS implementation since 2010. Part of the RSU's Action Plan from the meeting was to form an Advisory Group, inform our public, and refer to the many free resources available to guide our continued work. Two great resources for teachers are www.achievethecore.org and www.engageny.org. After twenty years in the education field, I am in awe of the many free resources that are available for teachers and administrators. Gwyneth, Barbara Fletcher, Sue Smith, and I attended another TURN gathering Friday and Saturday of last week. You will be hearing more about something called WOW in the coming days as well as the Advisory Group, which we will be referring to as the Common Core Council.

Dine and Discuss – Along with our Professional Development Group on Advisory, I'm tentatively planning our first *Skillful Teaching* Dine and Discuss for Thursday, October 17th from 4-6. Our first topic will be centered on Chapter 12 "Expectations," including Effective Effort and Attribution Theory. Stay tuned for more details.

easyCBM – I am in the process of renewing our contract for easyCBM as this is our universal screener and progress monitoring tool for math. I look forward to working with K-5 Saco and Dayton and grade 8 at SMS in using this tool. I received the contract today and will work on that ASAP.

ELA CDT – ELA CDT (as a whole) did not have an official September meeting (3-5 met), so full agendas have been posted for this Thursday, October 3rd. The leadership team met last Wednesday, and some of the highlights of that meeting are as follows:

- Lucy Calkins' opinion support materials for K-2 have been ordered.
- Much more CCSS information will be coming once NECAPs are completed for grades 3-8. My "vision" is a November "kick-off."
- Each grade span is incorporating I Can statements, but how we "got" there varies. If you are an ELA teacher and need more support with I Can statements, let a literacy specialist or me know. We love to help!
- We updated each other on the grade-span summer work that occurred. A HUGE thank you to the ELA and RTL teachers who committed up to five summer days to advancing literacy for our students!!!
- We are excited to continue work with Kathy Collins and would like more teachers to get involved. If you're a K-5 teacher and would like more information, there are many Reading Teacher Leaders with whom to connect. See the Membership graph on the ELA icon. You can also access the RTL website at www.rsu23.org/ELA for more information.
- A great resource we spoke about is www.newsela.org - This provides at least four "Lexiled" articles for use in social studies, science, unified/allied arts, etc. It's awesome – check it out!

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EL Staff/Cultural Proficiency - We have an amazing EL staff in Jen Rawlings, Jen Darrigan, Travy Moncure, and Michelle Brown. These ladies have worked hard to bring Kathy Spencer to our district for three days this fall for Cultural Proficiency learning. We have 18 staff members signed up, and they will meet on 10/1, 10/29, and 11/14 from 3:30-5:30 at CK Burns.

HQT - Barbara Stasio is in contact with building administrators to ensure we are all Highly Qualified. If you have any questions, contact Barb.

Inquiry Afternoons - In an effort to sustain our learning from last year's Data Course, titled Unleashing the Power of Collaborative Inquiry, ADARR and I will be hosting monthly sessions for anyone interested in learning more and/or delving deeper into our topics. I am tentatively planning the first session for Thursday, Oct. 10th from 3:00-4:30. Stay tuned for more details.

Leadership Team Afternoon Meetings - Have you noticed that your administrators are only out of the building one Tuesday morning a month now? We have moved one of our monthly sessions to the afternoon, with a focus on Teaching and Learning. This month's meeting was on Technology, and our facilitators were Mark Fryover, Lila Mitchell, Laurie Wood, and Lloyd Crocker. The administrators discussed the importance of a shared vision, resources, challenges, and other ideas that will be followed up on at our next meeting. One resource we are looking to pursue is *Digital- Age Literacy for Teachers - Applying Technology Standards to Everyday Practice* by Susan Brooks-Young. Check it out if you get a chance and let us know what you think.

Math CDT - With summer work cancelled in June, CDT members are busy this fall prepping for PD opportunities. October 11th is a full K-5 math day. Math CDT members had a professional release day Thursday, Sept. 26th in Dayton. We did an in-depth analysis of the 8 Mathematical Practices, viewed various resources, and planned for the facilitation of Oct. 11th. Thank you to the following members who did AMAZING work that day: Lisa Arnold, Sophie Douzepis, and Barbara Fletcher for K; Darci Holland, Janelle Harrison, and Heather Putnam for 1st; Crystal Blais, Shaun Jordan, and Julie Montalbano for 2nd; and Paula Dickinson, Cheryl Frechette, and I planned for 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Agendas will be coming your way soon.

Navigating Text Complexity - This is a new resource we learned about from the state ELA gurus, but it applies to all content areas. Whether this is the first time you've heard the term or you would like to see how text complexity will impact your classroom, check out http://www.ccsso.org/Navigating_Text_Complexity.html.

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New Staff Meetings – Our Special Education Director, Assistant Directors, and I have teamed up to support our new teachers with monthly check-in meetings. We are all reading *Teach Like a Champion*, a book that Kim Marshall (author of our evaluation rubrics) highly recommends. Each month we will focus on the needs/questions of the group. Congratulations to all our new staff on a great start to the year! Our next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 9th at central office.

New Staff Orientation – Although this occurred in August, I would like to give a “shout out” to the many teachers and staff members who made this event possible for our new staff. Thank you to Peter Harrison, Julie Petrin, and Phil Black from Young for being gracious hosts. Thank you to Sue Morrell and her talented staff for our breakfast treats! Thank you to those who presented – Brandi Fearon, Laurie Brunswick, Bonny Hadiaris, John Nye, Heather Putnam, and Lisa Vadnais. And last, but definitely not least, thank you to Jay Kelley for organizing the bus tour with Laurel Flanders, driver extraordinaire, and Mike Pulsifer, Business Manager by day – emcee comic otherwise. We toured all the RSU schools and learned a little history as well.

NWEAs – We began this fall with administering NWEAs to grade 4 at Loranger as a universal screener for Title services as well as to provide immediate data for RtI. Thank you to Alli Gamache for spearheading the LMS testing! We hit a major roadblock last week as we tried to do the same for grade 6 at SMS. The best comparison I can make to our roadblock is to have you envision traffic at rush hour in New York City being upended and placed on Route 112 – it wouldn't be pretty! In other words, we do not currently have the bandwidth to support all the laptops and iPads at SMS. This will be resolved this coming month (how's that for optimism?). Through the debacle with Mrs. Mains' ELA classes (sorry, Courtney!), it became obvious that I need to formalize our NWEA plan. I will be forming NWEA teams at SMS, LMS, and OOBHS to ensure a smoother next session. In January, NWEAs will be given to all students at Loranger, grades 6 and 7 at SMS, and freshmen and sophomores at OOBHS. It is frustrating to have an assessment tool we cannot currently access, but we are working on it.

One by Kathryn Otoshi – I've had the pleasure to visit a few classrooms and read one of my favorite books, which happens to be titled *One*! It was a perfect fit at Fairfield with the Sticks and Stones presentations their PTO recently sponsored. In need of a 15-20 minute read aloud? Please invite me to read in your classrooms! For more information on Otoshi's award-winning books, visit www.kokidsbooks.com.

Opening Day Feedback – Thank you to the 138 of you who responded to the survey! The AC committee on Professional Development has reviewed the information, and your feedback is driving decisions for coming PD. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and has been shared with Research for Better Teaching on Mrs. Spencer's behalf! Thank you!

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Press Releases – We have made a few connections with media regarding some RSU #23 happenings – TURN conference attendance, RSP trainings, Pinwheels for Peace in Dayton, Sticks and Stones at Fairfield, and State Rep. visits at SMS. Although I cannot promise the press will print what we share, if I can be of any help to schools in getting information out, please don't hesitate to send the info my way.

Report Card Committee – The RCC is an ad hoc committee from Advisory's ADARR. Committee members are Crystal Blais from Dayton; Danielle Bogardus from Fairfield; Patrick Conley from CK Burns; Mike Flaherty from Jameson; Shaun Jordan from Young; and Barbara Fletcher and I from CO. Karen Murphy, Registrar from OOBHS, has created the initial document and will be uploading the agreed-upon standards for teachers to input data for Trimester 1 report cards. **You can now go into Power School to view the current draft of the report card.** You can also input comments at this time (from Gradebook), but we are NOT ready for you to input standard grading. To print a copy:

1. Go to Power Teacher
2. Click backpack
3. Select student
4. On the far right pull-down menu, Select Screens – Print a Report
5. Select your grade level and hit submit.
6. From there you can “pdf” it or print.

Teacher Gradebook is where all comments will be input. Go to Tools at the top and select Score Inspector. There will be a place to write comments. Don't forget to Close and Save (under Reporting Term T1). ALL directions will be made explicit; in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact an RCC member for extra support. The RCC would greatly appreciate that you review this draft with your PLCs and come prepared on October 11th to provide feedback. Here are our next steps in this process:

1. Oct. 8th – Board presentation on report card
2. Oct. 11th – K-5 Grade levels match math standards to the teaching and learning in the classroom and review report card draft.
3. Oct. 16th – Report Card Committee meets to review feedback on drafts and check-in with Karen on upload of information.
4. Oct. 30th – Report Card Committee will create two video tutorials/chats - one for teachers and one for parents that will clarify and assist teachers in inputting data into either Gradebook or Power Teacher.
5. Week of Nov. 4th – Video chats posted online
6. Nov. 22nd – First Trimester ends*
7. Dec. 6th – Report Cards sent home and archived in Power School

*CK Burns and Dayton currently have trimester end dates of Nov. 15th. Karen is giving 110% to this project and would like to have all the uploads done in time for this date; however, teachers will have the opportunity to copy the pdf and write in standards in time for Parent Teacher Conferences if need be.

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Restorative School Practices – Kudos to Mark Murray and the teams from STP, LMS, SMS, and OOBHS for the great work in August. Although I’m not heavily immersed in the work, I am trying to keep abreast of the PD so that I can support this work. Thank you for all you are doing in your individual settings! Ansley Newton is the state consultant working with SMS; Pam Anderson is working with OOBHS and STP; and Chuck Sauffler is working with LMS. Alongside the building teams, these consultants will be leading the Oct. 11th work.

Science CDT/ Social Studies CDT – Our Science CDT co-chairs are Michaela LaMarre from SMS; Kristen Moustrophis from OOBHS; and John Nye from LMS. Our Social Studies co-chairs are Lori Gaudreau from LMS; Tom Partridge from SMS; and Rosa Slack from OOBHS. The original plan to lead PD on October 11th has been pushed back due to Restorative Practices training. I will update you on science and social studies CDT work in my October memo.

Title I Meeting – I am working on gathering all Title I teachers and administrators VERY soon. I have notified all administrators of the Parent Reservation budget for our Title I schools, and we will have a full agenda when we come together in early October. I apologize for not being able to pull us together sooner.

Year-long Plans – Barbara is ready to print off the remaining certificates from opening day discussions on year-long plans, but I am not ready to give her the green light. Even though I have only perused the plans, what I have seen at first glance has been solid, to say the least. My only hesitations are that I want to create email lists so that I can email each team, and I want to communicate with the administrative liaisons. My goal is to complete this by next Tuesday, Oct. 8th, when we next have LT.

October OCI Dates:

(Still to be scheduled: Title I meeting and Science/SS CDT Co-chair meetings)

Tuesday, Oct. 1 st	Math CDT 6-12 Meets Kathy Spencer conducts observations WITH administrators Cultural Proficiency 1 st session @ CK Burns Library
Wednesday, Oct. 2 nd	CCSS discussion/presentation at Saco City Hall
Thursday, Oct. 3 rd	ELA CDT meetings
Monday, Oct. 7 th	“OCI” visits Adult Ed Substitute Course
Tuesday, Oct. 8 th	Leadership Team Meeting RSU #23 Board Meeting

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Wednesday, Oct. 9th New Staff Group at Central Office

Thursday, Oct. 10th AC Leadership Team Meeting
1st Inquiry Afternoon – DATA COURSE information

Friday, Oct. 11th Full PD Day – K-5 Math (Agendas forthcoming)
6-12 RSP in individual buildings

Monday, Oct. 14th Columbus Day – Enjoy!

Wednesday, Oct. 16th Kathy Collins with Reading Teacher Leaders
ELA Leadership Team Meeting 7:30-9:00
Early Release Day for OOBHS (major test day)
Report Card Committee Review Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 17th Advisory Council Meeting at SMS
1st *Skillful Teaching* Dine and Discuss - More info to come

Monday, Oct. 21st Maine Curriculum Leaders Association Conference

Tuesday, Oct. 22nd 2nd LT Teaching and Learning afternoon session

Thursday, Oct. 24th Math CDT K-5 to meet @ Fairfield (Julie M.'s room)

Tuesday, Oct. 29th Math LT Meeting 7:30-9:00 at central office
Kathy Spencer conducts observations WITH administrators
Cultural Proficiency 2nd session @ CK Burns Library

Wednesday, Oct. 30th Early Release Day for K-8 (K-5 Math)
Report Card Committee Video Chat Creation Day



Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Smyth

Michael Pulsifer
Assistant Superintendent for
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