

## **District Support Visit Report**

**County: Allegany**

### *Schools visited:*

- Washington Middle School
- Fort Hill High School

### *Teacher Classroom Participation:*

- Approximately 8 teachers in classrooms in middle school; these included ELA, mathematics, Algebra I, Life Science, Earth Science, and social studies.
- Approximately 8 teachers in classrooms in high school; these included, Chemistry, English 10, Honors English, Honors World Cultures, AP US History, Honors Biology, AP Statistics, and Integrated math

### *Participation at meetings:*

- Approximately 15 central office at the morning meeting
- All 16 teachers observed attended the meeting after the observations
- Approximately 5 teachers attended the open forum as well as 2 central office and one member of the teachers' union.

### *Summary of resources and support that teachers found most useful:*

- Resources related to STEM: lessons and units
- Lesson development templates
- PARCC materials, especially the prototypes

### *Summary of resources and support that district personnel and teachers reported they would like from MSDE:*

- Professional development needed:
  - Clarify the message and expectations of what STEM Education really is and unify the STEM message across all contents.
  - Mathematics: approaches to create assessment type problems and rubrics (how to ask the same type of question from different perspectives,
  - Some structure about how to implement and move to NEXT Generation Science.
  - Close analytical reading
  - Resources on professional development for a variety of accommodations.
  - Assistance to see how Disciplinary Literacy (DL) ties into the Common Core trying to integrate DL standards into what they are doing. Although they did the DL academy in the West, they still feel that they need more professional development on DL.
  - Use of data in guiding instructional decisions
- Resources Needed:
  - Short easy to use and easy to navigate resources.
  - A tab for teacher's strategies of how to use resources in classroom such as hyperlink or reminders.
  - More high school examples
  - Videos like what they have seen in Engage NY videos around vertical teams.

- Videos need to be short 5 to 10 minutes no more than 30 minutes
- Finding text selections and close analytical reading
- More resources for writing in all subject areas; Writing rubrics (PARCC or State guides); High school examples on writing in others disciplines
- Reading materials that work well for disciplinary literacy
- Videos with trans-disciplinary teaching
- Videos with individual teachers showing how to plan and execute CCSS in the classroom.
- Real world videos for STEM (show teachers planning and seeing lessons being implemented in the classroom from real footage.)
- A graphic depicting UDL, SLO and STEM and how it ties to Common Core.
- Simulated samples on-line of the PARRCC type practice questions for all subjects.

### *Summary of Best Practices*

- Observed Drag and Drop technology being used in a history class with Bill of Rights and scenarios where they would be applied. The students came up to the board and used touch screen technology to answer the questions. Teacher was a facilitator and students were engaged.
- Observed experiential learning as it related to speed and velocity in an AP Physics course where the students became the objects moving around the sun
- In middle school, teachers and students are participating in Common Core Fridays to try to give students questions that will give them practice for the PARCC assessments.
- In middle school, team planning is being employed, which helps them to get to know each other better and rely on each other's strength especially with trying to develop STEM lessons in ELA and across disciplines.
- There was a lot of collaborative group work going on in both the middle and the high school lessons observed.

### *Key Messages from Allegany Teachers*

- Appreciated that we visited and put a human face on MSDE
- Appreciated that MSDE is listening to them and is respectful to their difficulties and frustrations as they implement CCSS and STEM Education