

## **Staff Development Day January 12, 2007**

### **Overview of Day:**

Foxborough Regional Charter School held a Staff Development Day on Friday, Jan. 12, 2007. The goal of the FRCS Professional Development Committee in planning this day was to create workshop and meeting options that allowed each staff member to select training that supported his/her professional growth. A total of fifteen workshops and five meetings were held throughout the day! Teachers chose workshops and evaluated the day using an online registration form at SurveyMonkey.com.

### **Keynote Speaker: The Power of Mindsets: Nurturing Motivation and Resilience in Students**

The highlight of the day was the opening keynote address by consultant and author, Dr. Robert Brooks. Dr. Brooks lectures nationally and internationally to audiences of parents, educators, mental health professionals, and business people on topics pertaining to resilience, self-esteem, motivation, family relationships, the qualities of effective leaders and executives, and balancing our personal and professional lives. During his presentation, Dr. Brooks described the mindsets of educators who truly touch the hearts and minds of students with both information and humor. He highlighted the lifelong impact that educators have on students and their resilience, the importance of empathy in understanding and responding effectively to students, the need to have a strength-based approach in which each student's "islands of competence" are identified and reinforced, a framework for defining the different components of motivation, and specific strategies for nurturing motivation, learning, self-discipline caring, and resilience in students. If interested in reading about Dr. Brooks or some of his articles and speeches, see his website: [www.drrobertbrooks.com](http://www.drrobertbrooks.com)

### **Workshops:**

**\*Spanish Workshops: "Creating Spanish Benchmarks Aligned with Curriculum and State Frameworks" (AM and PM).** Dominique Astier and Lauren Carroll, consultants and Spanish teachers, led this all day workshop for K-12 Spanish staff to review the Massachusetts Spanish Frameworks and work on the development of K-12 Spanish benchmarks for each grade.

**\*Inclusion Workshop: "Collaboration for Meeting Special Education Adaptations in the Classroom" (AM and PM)** Dr. Elizabeth Fleming, consultant and Simmons college professor, led a workshop for K-12 staff that provided educators with hands-on strategies in the following areas: classroom adaptations, accommodations, and modifications, two cooperative learning strategies, seven criteria of inclusion, and an overview of four co-teaching models.

### **\*Middle School Workshops: (AM and PM)**

Lori McEwen, Teachers 21 consultant and former middle school teacher, presented two workshops for grades 5-8 teachers that included classroom strategies for the implementation of cooperative learning, team teaching and interdisciplinary curriculum.

### **"Middle School: Cooperative Learning Strategies" (AM)**

Cooperative learning strategies enable students to learn necessary social and collaborative skills while engaging with their work from a variety of perspectives. Far more than simply arranging students in groups, cooperative learning allows students to challenge themselves and each other as they work in stimulating environments to problem-solve and create meaning.

### **"Middle School: Collaborative Professionalism" (PM)**

This workshop included strategies for team teaching and interdisciplinary planning. Just as students have been shown to learn best when collaboratively creating meaning, so too do their teachers. Adults in schools can and should work together to share best practices, challenge each other's thinking and otherwise break through the isolation of teaching in order to provide students with continuously improved practice.

### **\*CPR Refresher Training: (AM only)**

Cathy Alix, FRCS nurse, and Brian Lavery, FRCS health and physical education teacher, conducted this refresher workshop for trained teachers, paraprofessionals, and lunchroom staff which enabled participants to become recertified in workplace CPR for infant, child, and adults.

### **\*Curriculum Workshop: "I Laugh" Workshop (AM and PM)**

Susan Raiscot, Special Education Director at FRCS, presented this workshop for K-12 staff based on the “I Laugh” curriculum. Students with social cognition deficits require direct instruction in the social mores of their daily lives. The skill sets required do not come automatically to these students. The participants of this workshop learned more about the students faced with this type of learning challenge as well as strategies that can be used within the mainstreamed classroom.

**\*Edline and GradeQuick Web Support: Enhancing Your Edline Websites” (AM and PM)**

Edward Lucy, Director of Technology at FRCS, presented this hands-on workshop for K-12 staff in the computer lab. Support was provided for Edline website development and an overview of the new GradeQuick Web.

**\*ATLAS Rubicon Software Training: “Atlas Rubicon” Webcast (AM and PM)**

Kelby Zenor, ATLAS consultant and former teacher with extensive experience in designing curriculum strategies and implementing best practices in classrooms, presented this K-12 workshop for specialists and staff via a webcast to our computer lab. This workshop provided time for staff to receive hands-on guided instruction for development of curriculum maps using the ATLAS Rubicon software.

**\*Paraprofessional Workshop: “There’s Got to be a Better Way: A Practical Approach to Classroom Management-Part II” (PM)**

Scott Seider, consultant and former teacher, gave Part II of classroom management training for our paraprofessional staff. During this hands-on workshop, paraprofessionals reviewed the definitions of classroom management and the characteristics of well-managed classrooms through many examples which included strategies to take back to the classroom.

**\*Writing Workshop II: Marianne Crowley and Bob Vierling (PM)**

Marianne Crowley, FRCS English teacher and Robert Vierling, English/Language Arts (ELA) Department chair and ELA teacher, presented Part II of Writer’s Workshop to the Upper School ELA staff. This session used the Writer’s Workshop approach to encourage students to take ownership of their writing and to engage them in the process of self and peer editing.

**Meetings:**

**Curriculum Mapping (Math) Vertical Teaming (Gr. 1-2): (AM)**

Lisa Altham-Hickey, Lower School Administrator, facilitated this meeting for grades 1-2 staff. This meeting provided time for staff to collaborate on mathematics curriculum maps reviewing and revising gaps and repetitions identified in the maps.

**\*RM FrameWork Mtg.: “Vertical Teaming Meetings for Math Curriculum Maps” (PM)**

This meeting for the Math Department was facilitated by staff and provided time for teachers to collaborate and hold discussions about the new RM Math software and implementation.

**\*“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” Book Group (PM)**

This meeting, “Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” was facilitated by staff. It provided time for K-12 staff to collaborate and have conversations about race and culture using Beverly Tatum’s book.

**\*Title 1/Intensive Meeting: Assessments and Data Collection for Title 1 and Intensive Instruction” (PM)**

This meeting was facilitated by Marilee Cantelmo, Director of Curriculum at FRCS and Alison Barr, Curriculum Specialist at FRCS. This meeting provided time for staff to collaborate and hold discussions about assessment tools and data collected during Title 1 and Intensive classroom instruction. Time was dedicated to developing progress reports to promote home-school communication.

**“Freshman Science Course Development” Meeting (PM)**

Upper School staff members facilitated this meeting that provided time for staff to collaborate and develop content for Freshman science course development.

**Summary:**

Staff were provided workshop and meeting options for the January 12<sup>th</sup> staff day to meet individual professional development needs. Ninety-two (92%) of the staff that completed the Jan. 12 evaluation form gave the presentation by Dr. Brooks the highest possible rating and indicated they would like to hear him again. All of the school districts in our sending districts were invited to attend. The Foxborough Schools sent a team of teachers to the keynote session and workshops. Overall, many staff felt this was the best staff development in the history of our school!