

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Curriculum and Instructional Support Services Report  
*January 29, 2015*

**Instructional Technology**

Karen Streeter is currently serving on the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) Board of Directors and is also the acting chair of the Consortium for Interactive Instruction (CII). Additionally, Ms. Streeter and Dr. Ruth O'Koye were selected to present four workshops at the VSTE annual conference in December.

**Mathematics**

An information webinar was held for all grade 6 math teacher, building specialists, and principals to provide update from the Virginia Department of Education. Beginning this year, the Grade 6 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered in a computer adaptive format.

**History**

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL) are in the revision process. To stay ahead of this process, the Office of Social Studies is beginning to revise the social studies curriculum to match the recommendation.

**Physical Education and Music**

On Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, the division's second graders attended *123...Let's Dance at the Edmonds Center*. Kelli and Kristal Randolph guided the students through an interactive dance experience that included ballet, African dance, ballroom and hip-hop.

**Science**

Brandon Allen and Chanel Graves of Cradock Middle School were selected and shared insight into student-centered inquiry-based science teaching in presentations at the annual Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST).

**English and Science**

The inaugural grade three alternative assessment for English and Science was issued during the week of January 12-16 to all third grade students. The inaugural grade five alternative assessment will be issued during the week of February 9-29, 2015.

**Awards**

I am pleased to announce that Region II was awarded an alternative assessment grant in the amount of \$14,000.00 (maximum amount allowed) as originally requested and an additional \$7,250.00. There are 15 school divisions in the region and all 15 Superintendents signed the agreement to participate. Hampton City Schools has been designated as the fiscal agent and work has begun.

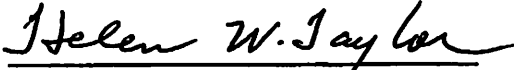
**Benchmark Assessments**

We are currently testing and the window closes February 6, 2015.

**AARPE**

Mrs. Susan Rhew, the Academic Review Contractor from the VDOE Office of School Improvement (OSI) will review the tools and documents from the unaccredited identified school on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Instructional Resources Center with all directors and some coordinators.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen W. Taylor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Helen W. Taylor, Ed.D.  
Senior Director

**Portsmouth Public Schools**  
**Cradock Middle School**  
Governance Meeting  
December 11, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Dr. Patricia H. Fisher, Interim Division Superintendent; Dr. Helen Taylor, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Fiona Nichols, Director of Mathematics; Anna Cross, Lead Contact English; Richard Carter, Director of Social Studies; Derrick Nottingham, Director of Research and Evaluation; Dr. Marie Shepherd, Director of Student Services; Ellen Giordano, Coordinator of Special Education; E. Ann Horne, Principal; Clyde Parker, Assistant Principal; Vanginette Benton, Assistant Principal; Stephanie Hamil, Mathematics Teacher; Chandra Perry, Data Analyst; Kelli Randolph, Indistar Process Manager; Tony Lee, English Teacher; Michelle Effatt, Science Teacher; Shelley Lawrence, Guidance Chair, Chandria Tenpenny, School Counselor, Sheronda Bell, Bookkeeper.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Taylor at 10:08 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from November 13, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Dr. Taylor reviewed the action steps to be presented.

**School Leadership Team Report:**

The school administration indicated that the team members would be addressing the following questions:

- What benchmark assessment strands did the students perform low in and how are they being addressed?
- How were the students grouped in tiers?

Ms. Perry (Social Studies) reported:

- Weak strands in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Civics.

Mr. Lee (English) reported:

- All teachers are using the Interactive Achievement system for all assessments.
- Students will be involved in small group pull-outs with 4 additional hired tutors.

Ms. Effatt (Science) reported:

- A survey was sent to parents to find out whether students had technology in their homes to access the program *Science Fusion*.
- The science department has instituted a "Flip classroom", which puts the responsibility of the education with the students. Teachers act as tutors and facilitators.

Ms. Hamill (Math) reported:

- The weak strands for Math 7, Math, and Algebra I and Geometry. Strategies were given to address the question of how to move the students to 70%. Some strategies were small group instruction, after school remediation, and Saturday School which would begin on January 10, 2015.
- The remediation for Math 8 would be on interpreting graphs.
- High performing teachers in Algebra I would be working with low-performing students to address weak strands.

**Dr. Nichols commented on the Math report and stated:**

- **Success Maker will be used to fill in the gaps in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Ms. Lawrence and Mrs. Tenpenny (Counseling)**

- **Counselors presented a skit on guidance support. Data was gathered on the number of students receiving one or more F's.**

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**Mr. Nottingham (Research): stated the presentations by teachers were strategic and precise.**

**Dr. Fisher commented on the following:**

- **She was very impressed with the direction of the school and the team and wished the school much success**
- **The school has internalized the process. The expectation is to be fully accredited.**
- **Leadership was encouraged to keep the Essential Actions in front of the staff at each faculty meeting.**
- **Each Teacher aim shoot for 75% in their classes**

**Action Steps: Dr. Taylor stated:**

- **Students are to be placed in tiers based on the data and know which students are in the 70% category.**

**Next Meeting: February 12, 2015**

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted Helen W. Taylor, Ed.D.**

**Portsmouth Public Schools**

**I.C. Norcom High School**

**Governance Meeting**

December 18, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Dr. Patricia H. Fisher, Interim Division Superintendent; Dr. Helen W. Taylor, Senior Director; Dr. Fiona Nichols, Director of Mathematics; Anna Cross, Lead Contact English; Richard Carter, Director of Social Studies; Derrick Nottingham, Director of Research and Evaluation; Dr. Marie Shepherd, Director of Student Services; Ellen Giordano, Coordinator of Special Education; Dr. Rosalynn Sanderlin, Principal; Shawn Millaci, Assistant Principal; Bernadette Smith, Assistant Principal; Shelly Nason, Science Chair and Data Analyst; Dr. Mechelle Blunt, School Improvement Co-Chair; Tanesha Pfister, Social Studies Chair; Donna Dixon, Special Education Co-Chair; Pamela Green, Special Education Co-Chair; Nina Woodbury, Mathematics Chair; Judah-Micah Lamar, English Chair; Tomeika Brice, Guidance Director.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Helen Taylor at 10:35 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from November 20, 2014, were reviewed and approved.

**School Leadership Team Report:** Dr. Sanderlin highlighted November and December's events beginning with the I.C. Norcom 4A South Regional District Championship basketball team's championship rings presented to team members, the Track Team, and the Winter Holiday Concert. In addition, Dr. Sanderlin reported Communities in Schools partnership with Cox Business Solutions, Leadership and Entrepreneurship with the Virginia State Bar Association. Staff members reported the following:

- **Mathematics:** Mrs. Woodbury reviewed the math remediation calendar and the math remediation plan. Mr. Millaci added that University Instructors would provide additional remediation support.
- **English:** Mr. Lamar reported that the English team has identified specific strands and strategies that are being used to increase student achievement, and provided the remediation calendar and departmental strategies for targeted differentiation.
- **Social Studies:** Ms. Pfister reported that tiered groups have been identified by name with a remediation checklist.
- **Science:** Mrs. Nason shared the remediation strategy to work with currently enrolled students and senior re-testers.
- **Special Education:** Mrs. Dixon outlined a plan that identified strategies and interventions using case manager conferences, attendance checks for students to make sure they attend testing for each student to graduate.
- **Guidance/Graduation Index:** Mrs. Brice provided team with information on 2015 Cohort Off-Track Progression.
- **Indistar:** Dr. Blunt shared updates on Indistar indicators.

Dr. Taylor thanked the team for the school's clear use of data, noting the processes and strategies that they have in place.

**Core and Program Directors/Coordinator Updates:**

**English:** Mrs. Anna Cross stated that all grade levels have numerous resources available to support instruction, including Pearson *SuccessNet* practice assessments and the Pearson *Literature/SOL Practice* handbooks for daily skills practice.

**Math:** Dr. Nichols reminded the team that resources from the Strategic Compensation Grant should be documented.

**Social Studies:** Mr. Carter indicated that Social Studies success seems eminent, and would like to consider distributing 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Skills for students to more than one teacher.

**Special Education:** Mrs. Giordano commented on the great collaboration efforts, and the use of data to provided necessary interventions to track and monitor students.

**Research and Evaluation:** Mr. Nottingham emphasized the importance of the use of data for instruction of all students.

**Indistar:** Dr. Marie Shepherd recommended adding other tasks to showcase and spell out the numerous stakeholder's involvement.

**Action Steps:** Actions steps from Dr. Fisher and Dr. Taylor were as follows:

- Systems and processes are in place and continue to focus on individual student results. Compare this year to the same time last year for each content area while focusing on the emphasis of the test in the classroom.

Dr. Sanderlin thanked Dr. Patricia Fisher for her efforts, support, and encouragement that she had given to all at I.C. Norcom High School.

**Next meeting:** January 15, 2015 @ 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Helen W. Taylor, Ed.D.