



# Regional School Unit #34

## Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

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November 11, 2011 – Report to the Board

### **What's going on in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment? A few activities from the last few weeks:**

- Poverty In-Service Training (PK-8 staff, 9-12 ed techs)
  - Elaine Miller and DebraJean Scheibel (EL-DEB) presented the core of this workshop, focused on greater understanding of the impact of poverty on students, helping students identify and use resources, and helping students build a growth mindset. It is very rare that we choose to undertake professional development through an “everyone, all-day” event such as this, but after ~20 staff previewed EL-DEB’s presentations last year, we determined that their message and presentation style was quite universal. Staff additionally had the option to participate in book studies, which met as break-out sessions at this event:
    - Mindset
    - Outliers
    - Inevitable: Mass Customized Learning
    - Ruby Payne’s Framework for Understanding Poverty
- Lots of syllabus review as part of the NEASC preparation process
- Recoding Title IA and Title IIA FY12 expenses to date with our new coding scheme (which will save time on year-end federal reporting)
- Resubmitted FY11 IA/IIA Performance Report and FY12 IA/IIA Consolidated Application
- Received notice that our continuing funding application for our service-learning grant will be approved – much thanks to the Service Learning Leadership Team for work on the new application requirements!
- Elementary Leadership Team drafted revised assessment/reporting expectations for K-5 mathematics, to start trimester 2. We are in a feedback period right now; final draft next week. The reasons for the change:
  - To reduce unnecessary assessments, so we can maximize instructional time
  - To help us focus on the goals of our current edition of Everyday Mathematics
  - To drop legacies from the previous edition that don’t align with our current materials
  - To help us focus on a mixture of formative and summative assessment

*Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.*

- After months of work, the Evaluation Committee has a full draft; the first review occurred 11/9. Edits are underway, and second review planned for mid-December, after which the draft will be shared with stakeholders (including the Board) for feedback.
- Spent a morning helping 5<sup>th</sup> graders with mussel midden research at Hirundo!

**Important Education News:**

- The Title IA and IIA allocations *for the current fiscal year* have been reduced as part of ongoing federal budget deliberations. I anticipate that this will be a rocky road this year due to election year politics. Our share of this reduction – so far – is \$4869.00, with the next vote anticipated 11/18/11.

**Chapter 104 Services: A few activities from the last few weeks:**

- Preparing trimester 2 pre-assessments for 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics – these results will determine advanced goals for students
- Mrs. Puhlick has done lots of data crunching in preparation for identification meetings.
- Lots of teaching and learning.
- I got a chance to visit Mrs. Dawson's culture club – very neat! The students and I learned to count to 5 in Japanese, discuss differences in architecture and home habits, and view lots of pictures.
- We honored Mr. Walker as he received the MEGAT 2011 Exemplary Service Award.

Respectfully submitted,  
JD