

Memo

To: Michael Robey, Ed.D. Superintendent
From: Barbara Dahly, Director of Teaching and Learning
Cc: Board of Education
Date: October 29, 2012
RE: Department Update

➤ **West Cook Math Initiative**

Professional development on the West Cook Mathematics Initiative (WCMI) to improve mathematics teaching and learning in grades 6-8 continues. One key activity of WCMI is to support classroom implementation of research-based, high quality math instruction for District 89 teachers and students. Teachers at Garfield, Lincoln, Irving and Roosevelt schools are participating in year three of the initiative. Teacher Leadership Academies are scheduled on September 27th, November 8th, January 17th, and May 9th. UIC Math Coach, Nancy Mueller will be facilitating the Professional Development work for Junior High Math on November 13th, December 11th, January 8th, February 12th, March 12th and April 9th. The work entails curriculum development with teachers collaboratively planning lessons from the Connected Math Program aligned to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics.

➤ **Proviso Articulation Cluster**

Junior High Math teachers from Garfield, Lincoln, Irving and Roosevelt School participated with Proviso High School math teachers in an articulation session on Monday, October 29th at PMSA. Teachers are coming together to bridge the gap in mathematics learning from junior high to high school. The goal of the session is to develop lessons with alignment to the Common Core State Standards to support all students. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 28th.

➤ **Professional Development Committee Meetings**

The Professional Development Committee has held meetings on August 29th, September 19th and October 17th to plan for School Improvement Day learning. The work is focused on the Framework for Teaching, on first early release Tuesdays, and Curriculum Redevelopment (Common Core State Standards) on second early release Tuesdays. Professional Development Committee meetings are held monthly with additional sub-committee work throughout the month.

➤ **Des Plaines Valley Region Elementary Career Development**

The DVR Elementary Career Development meetings have been held on September 14th, October 29th with continued work on a three year grant which will allow for informal STEM learning opportunities for participating schools. If grant funding is received, District 89 will be participating in Robotics after-school clubs and Stellar Girls (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math opportunities for girls). STEM Fest scheduled in April 2013, for District 89 students, is funded by the DVR Career grant.

➤ **Positive Behavior Intervention Supports**

PBIS meetings are held monthly with internal coaches from each school. A sub-committee on Bully Prevention Education and a sub-committee on Sportsmanship Education have been formed. Committee members are planning to incorporate the teaching of key strategies to interrupt social aggression and to provide support for recipients of social aggression in schools. Social workers came together on October 26th to review the PBIS strategies and to assist in formulating a presentation plan for faculty and students beginning in November 2012.