

**INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPING**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 17, 2005**

**MINUTES**

**Study Group Progress Reports-** Representative members from the Tappan Hill, John Paulding and Morse School Study Groups shared their findings from a visit to the George Washington School, a K-5 building in the White Plains School District:

- Implementation of Preventing Academic Failure (PAF) model in self-contained environment for students with learning difficulties
- Enrichment programming delivered in a pullout model for select students

There was also a report from members of the Morse and Washington-Irving Study Groups who visited the Claremont School in the Ossining School District. Participants reported the following about this grades 4-6 building:

- Utilization of AUSSIE consultants for balanced literacy
- Support services (reading, special education et. al.) delivered through a push-in model
- Large classroom spaces which allow for varying student configurations/groupings

Dan Allen shared preliminary plans under consideration by the Sleepy Hollow Study Group for the 2005-2006 school year. The English department is exploring the reorganization of the ELA support period for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in an effort to provide intervention services that emphasize the development of reading skills. In grades 9 and 10 there is contemplation of a teaming approach for next year that would provide for an interdisciplinary approach in the areas of English and social studies. Finally, the Study Group is examining ways of redesigning the delivery of special education services in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the current model.

**Future Visits-** There is one remaining visitation to the Hunter College School scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> that will include Study Group members from each of the elementary schools.

**Curriculum Articulation-** Zbynek Gold and Dan Allen reported that very productive work sessions have been conducted with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and English teachers from the Middle School that have

resulted in substantial changes to the ELA curriculum maps and assessments.

**NYS Testing Program**- There was a brief overview of the new State testing system that will be expanded to include grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 for the 2005-2206 school year. These new ELA and mathematics tests will replace the Test of New York State Standards (TONYSS).

**In-District Visits**- Building Teams have been actively engaged in visiting each of the District's elementary schools to observe English/language arts lessons and to discuss balanced literacy. Tappan Hill and John Paulding visits are complete with Morse School and Washington Irving scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> March 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

**Next Meeting**- The Committee expects to receive reports on:

Hunter College School visitation  
In-District ELA Visits  
Study Groups' Preliminary Plans

**NEXT MEETING:                    Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3:15PM**  
**Administration Building-Board Room**

**NEXT AGENDA                    Study Groups' Progress Reports**