Communication Coordinator Meeting

Tuesday, 10/15

12:30-3:00

Julie and Jill opened the meeting with a sharing around the room of some fact that we didn't know about each other.

Julie shared that the survey that was conducted this summer indicated that there were some issues and needs that were not being adequately met by SLS, and that we will be working this year to make connections and provided needed services by involving librarians in planning and meetings.

Julie shared GVEP updates, including updates with regard to the PARCC assessments. (Her presentation will be posted on the SLS site on the Communication Coordinator page) She also shared that the requirement for a research paper would be instituted that might start in 10th grade. The PARCC Assessments will administered over a 20 day period, which allows implementation for districts with less access to computers. The NYS recommendation is that the district have at least a 2:1 ratio of students to computers based on their larges grade level cohort. These tests will be able to be administered in the classroom on a staggered schedule. This would hopefully alleviate bandwith issues, as well as computer access. Math and ELA testing are projected to be administered via computer as of the 2014-15 school year. (This may be an optimistic projection)

Computer based tests will result in lower costs, scoring efficiency, better item analysis etc.

The following skills will be needed for effective test taking:

- clicking in items
- highlighting sentences
- counting paragraphs
- scrolling
Minimizing/maximizing windows

dragging items into text boxes

having multiple windows open at once

There will be IEP considerations and adjustments as needed

There will be some field testing this year in our area.

There was some discussion about local practices; York and OACS are utilizing the STAR program, another program that uses online testing, but unfortunately does not reflect the rigor of Common Core Curriculum. There was also discussion about how to measure baseline data - how long the Pre-Assessments will be in use. Last year the use of Pre/Post Assessments led by GV BOCES was a very messy process. Julie demonstrated some of the PARCC questions.

Some discussion occurred about the implications of the computer testing, including the lack of computer skills as list above on the part of many students. Julie suggested that the librarians capitalize on this new issue - who will be responsible for teaching these skills? Who will work with students to make sure that these test-taking functions are being taught? It might be a way to encourage the restoration of some of the library positions that have been cut - that the librarian can be another support in helping students do well with online testing.

Chris then reviewed program updates, which will now be distributed on a monthly basis via an online newsletter/posted on SLS website. He then proceeded to demonstrate http://www.gvlibraries.org - promoted to be a “one stop shop” for teachers to utilize resources, as well as CCSS resources. Collected on this site is access to media, games, Common Core support for modules, including direct links to the EngageNY postings online, etc. Audio books and other resources will soon be updated with Lexile levels - this is a project that Lisel and Melisa are working on. Levels will also be added to Media Materials to facilitate usage. Most VHS tapes are either gone or will be going away; SLS has been working to replace VHS tapes with streaming video or DVDs.
Please be sure to inform your teachers that they should go to:
http://www.gvlibraries.org to take advantage of these resource collections. SLS will provide lists to librarians of the teachers who have already registered for accounts, so that they can individually help/approach teachers to create accounts and access materials. When registering, teachers should indicate their levels, as CCSS resources will default to access the appropriate grade level as selected by the teacher.

Chris also explained the change to passcodes from login/password, which was a necessary change to facilitate faster access to the site. Last week’s slowdown of Fish was due to high traffic on logging into the site; the passcode bypasses this process, thereby making the site more accessible. Though there are still some bandwidth issues, SLS is working to resolve them in recognition of the fact the the databases need to be available/accessible at any time.

If a district is only using Fish for database access, they can tell SLS to make their Fish home defaults to the resource page. If Fish is being used in its entirety, the login for creating reviews now appears on the school’s fish homepage, and has been moved to the right side of the page. Students need to login here to write reviews. If you don’t have a passcode, or your Fish page does not have a login and you need it, email aaustin@gvboces.org.

If you are currently trying to access the National Geographic video via Tumblebooks Cloud Patty Martire has the site URL that needs to be unblocked by your tech department; this is the url: vzaar.com. A thank you to Patti for this information!

At this point, the librarians were asked to contribute recommendations in four areas by completing poster paper charts indicating: What’s Working well? What are the challenges? : Media/Audiobooks, Ebooks, Automation and Databases. Chris will collate and publish the information gathered on these forms. If any librarian has anything to add, please email to Chris.

School Improvement - Julie showed us how to access newsletters and updates from
School Improvement on the GVBOCES site - go to GVBOCES/Services/School Improvement/Communication updates; you can also access Presentations through these links. (Communication Page/Updates: http://www.gvboces.org/services.cfm?subpage=1081762 )

Recommendation: With the state requirement for a research paper, it may be time for librarians to demonstrate their essential role as a resource by putting together a presentation on “how to write a research paper”, and/or attending a meeting at School Improvement demonstrating their expertise and skill set.

Next meeting will include a morning and afternoon session, with the possibility of a working lunch. Anyone who is interested in the Council Meeting is invited to do so, immediately following this meeting.

Thank you for attending the meeting (if you were there). If you have any feedback, ideas, etc., please feel free to contact Chris with them.