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New York State Staff Development Council

Affiliate of the National Staff Development Council

In this issue...

- [Perspective - Dick Jones](#)
- [Council News](#)
- [High Quality Professional Learning](#)
- [NSDC News](#)
- [Albany News](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Technology Tools](#)

Powerful Words

"To live is not to learn, but to apply."
Legouve

EVENTS

NSDC Annual Conference

St. Louis, MO
December 5-9, 2009

Information

NSDC Summer Conference

Seattle, WA
July 18 - 21, 2010

Save the Date

NYSSDC Newsletter

November 2009

Perspective - Dick Jones

The Yankees Win!

The Yankees Win! As a Yankee fan for over half a century, I just like to say that. Sports fans everywhere enjoy the euphoric feeling of victory, almost as much as the players themselves. Now, I realize that not everyone is a Yankee fan and there are a few Yankee haters among us that dismiss any Yankee championship because they pay their players more than any other team and they "buy" the best players. The fact that Yankees spend so much and have the best players does not guarantee victory. The Yankees have had the highest payroll nearly every year but have not won every year. If you listen to the players, they cite what is different this year is that fact they played as a team, and supported one another in victory and defeat over the long course of the season.

To extend another sports metaphor to education, there is a lesson here. One of the tenets of No Child Left Behind is the goal that every teacher be "highly qualified." Many also argue that teachers need to be paid more. This is true, but I doubt that teachers will ever reach the pay levels of professional baseball teachers. Qualifications and pay may give schools a chance to be successful, but it will not guarantee success. We tend to focus on the measures of education that we can easily count - average salary, per pupil expenditure, credit hours attained by teachers, class size. We believe that improving our numbers will lead to success. These numbers can be correlated to student achievement but do they really cause student achievement?

Success in baseball is not just about good numbers it is the result of a team of players, skilled in fundamentals dedicated to a common goal. The team learns from its mistakes and continues to improve. The champions often cite the "team chemistry" intangible as the key to success. In education, we need to keep the statistics, data informs decisions and measures progress. But just the collection of a lot of data will not make you successful, in baseball or education. Success comes from building team chemistry among a group of talented professionals. Winners practice together, share what works and learn from mistakes. That sounds to me a lot like good professional learning. Let's get back to basics of good professional learning, working hard every day and we will be more likely to be able to celebrate our success. *Only 90 days until spring training.*

Council News

New York Reception at NSDC





Meet me in St. Louie! For those of you attending NSDC Annual Conference in St. Louis, be sure to join us for the New York Affiliate reception to be held at 6:00 PM on Monday December 7, 2009. We will have refreshments and provide an opportunity to see old friends and make new acquaintances in professional learning

No conference in 2010

NYSSDC had a very successful conference in 2009. We thank all of those that attended and contributed to the program. It was an informative program loaded with great ideas and a chance to network with talented professionals in staff development. We have been asked by many, when is the 2010 conference. We have decided not to have a conference for several reasons. First and foremost, we believe that professional learning should not be about workshops and conferences. We want to model that belief and create other formats for networking and sharing learning. Stay tuned into this newsletter and we will be announcing other programs and services to share best practices in professional learning. We may consider another conference in the future but not in the near future.

Join our committees

In developing the work of the Council, we are forming three committees. Volunteer to join one of these committees. You will get a chance to work with some great people and and create exciting new initiatives to improve the quality of professional learning in New York. Contact [Chris Lowden](#) or [Dick Jones](#) for one of the following Committees.

The three committees are:

- Advocacy - works to influence policy on professional learning
- Programs and Services - planning statewide and regional professional learning events
- Best Practices - collects and disseminates best practices

High Quality Professional Learning

Contractual Language that Supports Professional Development

Some of the often cited reasons for the lack of professional learning is the lack of time and contract restrictions in bring teachers together. Syracuse City Schools has shattered some of these myths with a new teacher contract that includes unique provisions to enhance professional development. First, is what is referred to an Urban Teacher Calendar (UTC) that provides 20 additional days in the school year for professional development and supplemental instruction for students. The contract also include provisions for adjustments in the school day, teacher induction and new teacher review that will improve teacher professional learning. To learn more about the teacher contract contact Superintendent [Daniel Lownegard](#) or STA President [Anne Marie Voutsinas](#),

NSDC News

NSDC Articles

Those of you that are NSDC members know the valuable resources from the organization. NSDC is now sharing portions newsletters or JSD content with affiliate leaders, content that is otherwise only available to members of NSDC. Affiliate organizations may post selected content on our web sites. The first is an [article](#) from JSD on a Texas school that used professional learning as a key tool in adjusting to a significant change in school demographics.

Learning Alliance

The Learning School Alliance is a network of model schools committed to professional development practices that promote student achievement. Participants will learn together in their own schools, with other schools

through webinars and facilitated conversations, and at convenings hosted by NSDC. They will share openly their goals, their progress - and over time - their results.

There four schools from New York State that are participating in this leading group of schools.

- Center Street Elementary-Horseheads, NY
- Hillcrest High School-Jamaica, NY
- Canisteo-Greenwood Middle School-Canisteo, NY
- Addison Middle-Senior High School-Addison, NY

Albany News

Professional Development Standards

This spring the Board of Regents adopted a set of [Standards for Professional Development](#). This is an excellent list of standards of high quality professional learning and should be used to guide the development of professional learning for teachers and administrators. A copy of the Standards is available on the NYSSDC web site.

Learning Resources

Becoming a Learning School

[Becoming a Learning School](#) is a new publication from NSDC. Chapters focus on changing school culture, scheduling time, planning, using data, designs for professional learning, facilitating collaborative professional learning teams, evaluating learning, and more. In addition the CD includes dozens of forms and articles to support teacher collaborative learning. A great resource for the school professional developer or principal.

Technology Tools

Rapid E-Learning Development

[Articulate](#) software has become known as the rapid e-learning tool. It offers a suite of software products to create content flash applications for online learning. The basic studio software enhances PowerPoint to make robust visual learning modules that can be used in online learning. There is also a Quizmaker to create multiple forms of test questions and tools for increasing interactivity of online content.

Member News

This is a section for news items of NYSSDC members. Have you been appointed to a new position, received an award, written book or published an article? Share the great news with colleagues. Send a note to Richard Jones, Newsletter Editor.

Education Links

- [NYSED](#)
- [BOCES](#)
- [NYSCOSS](#)
- [SAANYS](#)
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- [NYSASCD](#)
- [NYSAIS](#)
- [NYSAWA](#)
- [Teacher Centers](#)
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Our Vision:

Our Purpose: Every educator in New York State schools engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

email: info@nyssdc.org

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