

STAMP OF APPROVAL



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Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist visited a professional development day in Coventry yesterday, where she was impressed by the things being done with technology by Kathy Larocque and other teachers in the district. Story, Page 2-A.

AT THE SCHOOLS

Gist sees Coventry teachers get technical at professional day

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COVENTRY — Teachers from all grades in the Coventry school district gathered at the high school Tuesday for a day of professional technology training in an effort to implement the 21st century learning plan that focuses on computer-based learning.

According to Director of Technology and Information Systems Lynne Burke, there were 64 programs teachers could attend throughout the day, some of which included utilizing Google Earth, Google Classroom, science Gizmos, coding and document sharing.

"This was the third piece of our professional technology training that began in May," she said. "Its not just about the Chromebooks, it's about using all of what technology has to offer and how we can bring that to our school district and bring our students into a while new world of learning."

Burke and Coventry School Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida had the opportunity to bring Rhode Island Education Commissioner Deborah Gist and Director of Technology for the Rhode Island Department of Education Holly Walsh to all the training rooms so both could see firsthand what types of programs teachers are learning along with their collaboration.

"We wanted to have this today so we can get ahead of anything we may have issues with tomorrow for the first day of school," Burke said.

As the commissioner made her way from room to room, she was excited about the level of technology the teachers were able to maneuver through and had conversations with a number of educators regarding how they can relate the program to the curriculum.

"I'm so incredibly excited about what is happening here in Coventry with technology and education because technology is such a powerful tool. Today, we have the ability to open a world of learning to our students and what really impresses me the most about this is how well this has all been very carefully planned out with all the best practices."

Gist said, including Coventry, there are nine school districts in the state that are utilizing technology to such a degree.

"We're very excited," said Almeida. "When we handed out the Chromebooks the other day, that was a great day for students and parents and we are truly mov-



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ABOVE: Coventry science teachers collaborating on an experiment while RIDE Commissioner Deborah Gist looks on. BELOW: Coventry School Superintendent Mike Almeida explains how some of the training will work to Gist and Holly Walsh, director of technology at RIDE.



ing education into the 21st century."

One teacher from the middle school, Christine Sirois, is so excited to have the opportunity to use this technology.

"I was helping to distribute the Chrome-

books the other day and I thought it was so exciting to see how happy both the kids and the parents were," she said. "There's a lot to absorb but we have so much support."