

2021 S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching Virtual Professional Workshop

Part I: March 20, 2021, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Part II: March 24, March 31, April 7, April 14, 2021, 6:30-8:00 PM

Part I: March 20, 2021

Tom Wells, retired teacher, author: Teachers Rock (35)

Ruby Parker, Maine Resilience Building Network: Flourishing with Relationship-Based Resilience (32)

Jim Moulton, Educational Technology & Project-Based Learning Consultant:

Now More Than Ever-PBL/CBL – Project-Based/Challenged-Based Learning (30)

Rachelle Tome, member of Count ME In and Susan Lieberman, Director of Count ME In:
Attendance Matters: The Power of Positive Reinforcement (24)

Part II: March 24: Melanie Ruark, teacher of English and Outdoor Education at Penquis High School: Reading and Writing Workshop: Hybrid Learning (20)

March 31: Dan Ryder, Apple Distinguished Educator, instructor at Overman Charter Academy: Critical Creativity in the Classroom (18)

April 7: Ali Stone, Project Manager for Kesler Science: How to Design a STEM Project that Leaves Spaghetti and Marshmallows in the Dust (15)

April 14: Melanie Ruark, teacher, Maine Guide, Naturalist: Natural Home Remedies: Would you like to have some healthy, safe cleansers for your home? (19)

A few interesting numbers:

1. Total participants: 48, two of whom were college students
2. 6 of those participants attended all 8 sessions
3. The average number of sessions attended: 4-5
4. 34 participants requested Contact Hours, earning a total of 228.5 hours.

Observations:

1. President Donna Kennison set up the ZOOM meetings. I gave an overview of ZOOM Etiquette and introduced the speakers. Donna, Mary Hyland, and I helped to moderate different sessions.
2. The Chat was used to take attendance and ask questions. It also became a place where participants bounced off what the presenters were saying sharing ideas/thoughts/resources. It also became a space where the presenters were thanked.
3. The Certificate of Contact Hours was designed so that each session the participant attended was checked off, giving the total number of Contact Hours earned.
4. All sessions were well-received, as was the overall quality of STRETCH and how well the sessions wove together, one supporting the other, to help us support our students.

5. By offering one session at a time, rather than concurrently, attendees could attend all that interested them, instead of making a choice. There were no presenters that had to be notified that their session was canceled due to lack of enrollment.
6. Each presenter will receive a thank you note with a Dunkin' Donut Gift Card.
7. Rather than a registration fee, we asked for a donation to our Scholarship Fund to be split evenly between that fund and the Founders Fund. We took in \$755!

Looking Ahead...

1. We are thinking about hosting the in-person event at the Hutchinson Center in March 2022, as well as 3-4 virtual sessions on consecutive week nights, similar to this year.
2. Many of our retired members who usually support us at STRETCH did not attend. Next year, we will provide professional development sessions as we always have, but try to add two or three personal growth sessions, such as Melanie did with her home cleaners.
3. Suggested programs: learning disabilities, technology, strategies to prepare for a test to help students feel more comfortable, how-to sessions, arts and crafts, gardening, math, motivational speakers, author, more on adverse childhood experiences and the consequences of that trauma, and perhaps open sessions to parents.

“The variety of styles of the presenters showed the differences in individuals, but also the awareness that each had to have a relationship with students and their learning styles. Meeting the needs of each student through creative, organized learning seemed to be prevalent throughout.” Nancy R

“The very first thing I appreciate about this workshop is the opportunity to meet all the educators! Sharing is learning! Positive Vibes! Getting to know that everyone is trying all they can to make it better for their students! Halina H.

“This was one of the best ZOOM workshops I have ever attended!” Jolene T.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Hendrickson, STRETCH Co-Chair