

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

January 4, 2005

Location: 6th & K Conference Room

3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

Our purpose as leaders in the language arts curriculum is to provide leadership and support in our schools for Anchorage School District goals.

1. Increasing achievement for all students
2. Supporting effective learning environments
3. Accomplishing increased public accountability

Refreshments, Materials Preview, and Catching up With Colleagues
Welcome Everyone!

Introductions

- * Agenda Approval
- * Minutes Approval

Current Business

- 4 ASD Multimedia Use Policy: Approved!
- 4 Titles and Tribulations...High School and Middle School Approved
Titles...Meeting dates for HS and feeder schools
- 4 Pilots for Reading/Writing Courses...Second Semester
Who is interested?
- 4 UBD training ...10th and 9th grade representatives
- 4

Continuing Business

- 4 FYI LA Adoption for Title Schools (14) + K-6
- 4 Alan Lightman lecture...an integrated effort by LA and Science!

In the Folder...

- 7 General Dept Chair Roles
- 7 TPD/Praxis II
- 7 YA Worth Reading
- 7 AP vs. IB
- 7 ASD Media Policy
- 7 ASDTA II
- 7 Book Approval Form 1st Revision

Announcements...

4:45 Adjournment

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

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In attendance: G Wright (South)
J. Olive (McLaughlin)
C. Rumps (Benson)
A. Morris (Dimond)
Marina Gantz (Bilingual)
F. Jackson (SAVE)
Johnson (West High)
Devon Roberts (Service)
Angela Armstrong (Chugiak)
Mary Henderson (Bartlett)
Martin Lang (new dept. chair for Eagle River High School)
Mike Graham (Principal, East High)

Agenda Approved

Discussion of Agenda Items.

1. ASD Multimedia Use Policy - Look at ASD Materials Selection
Mardell discussed the fact that the principals are in agreement that NO R-rated Movies are to be shown. Mr. Graham added that if you just want to show a clip from an R-rated film, check with curriculum principal first. G Wright requested that we receive a catalog/list of cleaned-up versions of R-rated films. Cleanflicks.com may be a source. Runs about \$40 per video. Mardell will circulate to schools video lists from catalogs and we can discuss at next meeting those videos which might be worth buying. G Wright brought up the fact that there are a few films that have been approved in the past and are R-rated (Schindler's List, e.g.). Mardell recommends that we go back to our buildings and discuss this issue with our principal.
2. Titles for high schools and middle schools. Seems to be some misunderstanding regarding what middle schools may/may not use. They need to compile a list of books with integrity/meat that are agreed upon as middle school books. May need to have a face-to-face discussion with high school language arts teachers. Mardell would like to attend dept chair meetings in each major high school and she will try to bring along feeder school language arts chairs. Proposal that we do a "spreadsheet" which delineates the level of appropriateness for specific books, involving middle and high school books.

3. Pilots for reading/writing courses - second semester - Is anyone interested in using newly developed curriculum in classrooms as “pilot” strategic reading courses? Get back to Mardell with this info. Possibility of training with materials.
There may be pilot resource money for teachers resources (books for classrooms).
4. Understanding by Design Model. A trainer has been identified (John Brown) for a 5-day period in early February -- 2 to 3 days of training for teachers – curriculum development. He will critique our 9th and 10th grade curriculum guides. Key people within schools should let Mardell know if they are interested.
5. Department Chair Roles - General statement of role of dept. chair – copy found within folder (and also on-line).
6. Discussion of handouts in the folder. Strickland course for Praxis prep class. Feedback wanted on topics that courses might be offered in ASDTA 2005. New form for curriculum book approval.
7. Controversial Issues Committee meeting on January 26 (6:30) at 6th and K. Discussion of the book The House of the Spirits.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.