

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

February 1, 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!

- You are welcome to choose and keep one of the books on the table to read at your leisure ...and consider for supplemental/approval process.

-

- * **Introductions**
- * **Agenda Approval**
- * **Minutes Approval**

Continuing Business

4 Media Orders...Progress and Questions?

4 Book Talks: High School /Middle School Meetings

February 15 West, Romig and Central at Central (Traci Stanley's room, 3:15 -4:00 PM)

February 22 Bartlett, East, Clark and Wendler at Wendler (Janene Schoenborn's room, 3:15 - 4:00 PM)

March 8 (proposed) South, Service, Hanshew and Goldenview at South (Glenn's room, 3:15-4:00 PM)

March 15 (proposed) Chugiak, Eagle River, Gruening, and Mirror Lake at Chugiak (Angie Armstrong's room, 3:15-4:00 PM)

- 4 *Strategic English* (draft title!) pilots...teachers from West, South, Bartlett, Dimond and SAVE responded and have been invited to training on Feb. 24, Mar. 31, and April 21.
- 4 UBD ...April 26, 27 & 28....and 29 - 30 More to come!
- 4 Controversial Issues Review Committee Recommendation

Current Business

4 **RSVPs** accepted now for ***AP Lit Workshop: AP Exam Prep and Strategies for Higher Learning in the English Classroom!*** Snohomish High School AP and Senior English Instructor, Lance Balla will resume conversations started in Nov. '03 with ASD, LA teachers.

April(TBA) 3 hours (Time, TBA)
April (TBA) 8:30-3:00 PM

Location: 6th & K Conference Room 30 participants accepted
\$100.00 Stipend

Email committed RSVPS to Mardell Kiesel

4Young Writer's Retreat! March 5, 2005

Featured Author: Debbie S. Miller

Grades 4-12

Wendler Middle School

4AP 6 Year Plan

4 Michael Graham, High School Administration Rep

In the Folder...

7 Young Writer's Retreat ... Flyer, Presenter Form, Student Registration

7 "Teaching Tolerance: What Johnny Can't Read"

7 "Local Teens Pitch Questions to Writer"

7 "Think the Old SAT Was Tough?"

7 Department Chair statement for LA Online!

7 *House of Spirits* Survey & Related Info

7 AP... ASD Home Page and 6 Year Plan

7 "Own Not, Copy Not: Deciphering Copyright Law in The Digital Age"

Announcements...

• **ASD TA ... June 13 - 23**

• HS Summer School...dates?

4:45 Adjournment

Anchorage School District
High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee
Mardell Kiesel, Language Arts Coordinator
February 1, 2005

In attendance: Glenn Wright (South)
Judy Olive (McLaughlin)
Chris Rumps (Benson)
Anne Morris (Dimond)
Marina Gantz (Bilingual)
Karen Cafmeyer (Service)
Angela Armstrong (Chugiak)
Mary Henderson (Bartlett)
Martin Lang (Eagle River High School)
Collette Marshall (Administration, West)
Janice Strickland (East)

Excused:

Mike Graham (Principal, East High)
Francine Jackson (SAVE)
Tricia Johnson (West High)
Devon Roberts (Service)

Agenda Approved
Minutes Approved

HSLACC was called to order at 3:30 P.M. Mardell invited everyone to select a book from the table to read, review and pass on or keep. She asked that each reader consider the book appropriate or not, for the supplemental/approval process. Approval forms can be sent to Mardell or brought to the April meeting.

Agenda Items:

Media Orders...

4 Mardell circulated a *Media Order Wish List*. We have about \$2,000 for media that will be housed at the ASD Media Center. The list must be returned to Mardell by the April HSLACC meeting. Glenn Wright suggested upgrading the system for ordering media to an on-line process. Currently, the process is cumbersome and a deterrent for use in the classroom.

4*Book Talks*-High School/Middle School...

Book Talks have been scheduled for the high school regional areas as requested. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss any titles that are currently being used at middle

and high school levels and are problematic and to recommend titles that are specific to each level. Mardell will bring copies of the currently approved titles by level that includes the supplementary titles.

4Strategic English Curriculum...

Training is scheduled for interested teachers on the following dates: February 24, March 31, and April 21. Mardell will send meeting announcements and related information.

4Controversial Issues Review Committee...

The question was raised whether a supplemental curriculum book approval for must be completed for every title taught in an Advanced Placement course. Mardell discussed that recommendations are available on the College Board web site. The recommended titles for advanced study courses are also those books that are referenced on the AP exams. When students elect to enroll in an AP course, they are taking a college level class, which is a "choice" class. Teachers of AP classes need license to choose challenging materials and prepare students to be successful on national exams.

4 Understanding by Design...

Dates tentatively scheduled for the UBD workshop are April 26, 27, 28 and 29-30. The first three dates are scheduled for middle school language arts and social studies teachers. The last two dates are for non-classroom personnel. Mardell is strongly encouraging a few high school, language arts teachers to consider attending some part of the UBD workshop with the consultant from ASCD. The curriculum guides for English 9 & 10 are based on the UBD model.

4AP Literature Workshop...

Originally scheduled for April 15 and April 16, this workshop will be offered at another time. Mardell will notify every one of the changed dates and plans. The committee supported the Friday night and all-day Saturday configuration for training and no-credit. Mardell offered a stipend of \$100.00 to all who attended both days. She noted that curriculum and high school education are partners in this offering. Without Mike Henry's support, this training would not be possible.

4Young Writer's Retreat...

The Young Writer's Retreat is scheduled for March 5, 2005. Sessions are planned for older students who are highly motivated writers. There are twelve authors confirmed at this time to present. (\$10 student registration fee)

4There is an ASD, 6-year plan to increase AP participation. The plans include focused training opportunities for staff and a discussion for enticing more students to academically challenging courses. It will be expected that the PSAT be given in middle schools to identify students-of-promise earlier. Janice Strickland spoke to how East High successfully encouraged more students to take the PSAT by paying the registration costs for the test and making the testing day culminate with a celebration. Committee members

expressed concerns regarding potential lessening of standards and rigor in academically challenging classes. This discussion will be continued as the *AP Plan* is developed.

4 Announcements: ASD Teacher Academy - June 13-23, 2005

The HSLACC meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Rumps, Benny Benson, and Mardell Kiesel, Curriculum