

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee Meeting
Mardell Kiesel – Curriculum Coordinator
Red Room –November 28, 2006

Present:

Mary Henderson (Bartlett);
Martin Lang (Eagle River);
Chris Rumps (Benson);
Gayle Boyer (Crossroads);
Janice Strickland (East);
Glenn Wright (South);
Kristidel Pandolfo (AP);
Ann Morgester (Bartlett Library);
Francine Jackson (SAVE);
Judy Olive (MYC);
Brett Burkhart (Dimond);
Kathie Steele (Chugiak);
Devon Roberts (Service)
BethAnn Brogan (West)
Marina Gantz (Bilingual)
Michael Graham (East High Principal... excused)
Guests: Mary Richards, Eagle River High School and Katherine Clawson, Romig Middle School

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Approved

Minutes from October 17, 2006, approved as distributed.

Agenda Approved

Presentation

Mary Richards and Katherine Clawson presented information regarding eZine, which is an online project to promote student and teacher writing. The Alaska State Writing Consortium invites other teachers to contribute to the development of eZine.

The site is still a work in progress, but it should be ready for teachers to have their students submit work by January. Work must be submitted through a teacher and a school district that is a member of the Writing Consortium.

Reports:

Ann Morgester, High School Librarians' representative, reported that there would be an eventual switchover from Webcat to IBistro (hopefully by the end of the year).

Kristidel Pandolfo, Project Appeal Grant Coordinator, reported that Lance Balla will be in Anchorage this Friday and Saturday, and there are slots available to participate in his class. The subject is "Vertical Teaming in the Face of Challenges." Substitute coverage and stipends are available.

Marina Gantz, ESL, reported that ESL is looking into different models of service delivery in order to meet curriculum needs as well as filling language gaps of the students.

Unfinished Business

English 11 Pilot book orders – Wendy Nyberg, Purchasing, did an exemplary job with the ordering process. Due to her diligence, money was saved with lower shipping costs. Mardell will designate the money once we know the status of the pilot in the remaining high schools. All department chairs are asked to submit inventories to Tony Freeman for vendor payment.

Electives – Discussion has taken place regarding a Dimond proposal that they will be a high school of electives. Mardell committed to seeking direction from the curriculum director and the assistant superintendent of instruction.

Mardell suggested that we pilot the English 11 course for one more year to bring everyone on board with resources and training. Glenn Wright offered that another year gives all schools a chance to collect a list of concerns that may come up. Mardell asked for a motion of support from the group to continue the pilot status for English 11 for another year (seek Board approval, spring – '08). So moved by Kathie Steele, seconded by Glenn Wright. The motion carried by majority favor with one abstaining.

The committee will go back to respective schools and initiate discussion about the elective offerings.

New Business

Status reports from alternative schools:

Judy Olive (MYC) reported that her department has classes that include students from 6th through 12th grade. It is difficult to envision teaching an English 11 class as is proposed now.

Francine Jackson (SAVE) reported that students working in her classes are often at different places in their development and progress. Students are working on individual contracts within her class.

Chris Rumps (Benny Benson) reported that concerns at Benson generally center on the materials for English 11. Some of the students will be able to handle the curriculum, but many students will be frustrated with the texts. We are looking at alternative texts.

Gayle Boyer (Crossroads) reported that with all of the classes she is teaching/supervising, she is not able to service special education students very well. Focus is on reading and writing skills.

Adjournment at 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rumps, Benny Benson