

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

ASD ED Center - Red Room - January 16, 2007 - 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

Mardell Kiesel – Curriculum Coordinator

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**

Catching up With Colleagues ... Welcome Everyone!

Call to Order

- Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Minutes Approval (11-28-06)

Presentation

Online Writing Assessment – Darla Jones, Secondary Instruction Technology

Pilot teachers: Gayle Boyer, Crossroads

Judy Olive, MYC

Mary Richards, Eagle River High School

Reports:

Michael Graham, East High Principal

Kristidel Pandolfo, Project Appeal Grant Coordinator

Unfinished Business

- English 11 Pilot Book Orders - Complete?
- Electives (Each committee member will be given 12 post-it notes to vote on electives that would be offered to students in grade 12 for English credit toward graduation.)

New Business

- High School Visitations

Announcements Teachers' Choice Books...Readers needed for chapter books

Adjournment

In the folder:

- . Minutes of November 28, 2006
- . The Art of Being a Military Child
- . ASWC 25th Anniversary Gathering
- . On-the Job Lexile Requirements – National Adult Literacy Study
- . Postcards from My Classroom

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee Meeting

Mardell Kiesel – Curriculum Coordinator
ASD ED Center - Red Room - January 16, 2007

Present:

Mary Henderson (Bartlett);
Martin Lang (Eagle River);
Chris Rumps (Benson);
Gayle Boyer (absent);
Ellen Scott (East);
Glenn Wright (absent);
Kristidel Pandolfo (excused);
Ann Morgester (excused);
Francine Jackson (SAVE);
Judy Olive (MYC);
Brett Burkhart (Dimond);
Kathie Steele (Chugiak);
Devon Roberts (Service)
BethAnn Brogan (West)
Tricia Johnson (West)
Bob Vandergriff (Steller)
Mary Richards, Special Ed.
Marina Gantz (Bilingual)
Michael Graham (East High Principal)
Guests: Darla Jones, Secondary Instructional Technology
Tricia Grega (UAA)

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Approved

Minutes from November 28, 2006, approved as distributed.

Agenda Approved

Presentation

Online Writing Assessment – Darla Jones

Pilot teachers: Gayle Boyer, Crossroads

Judy Olive, MYC

Mary Richards, Eagle River High School

Tricia Grega (UAA) reported on the Acuplacer Test, which was administered to a group of seniors who had passed the HSGQE but may not have done well on the SAT. The students who did not make the cut score in one of the testing areas were counseled to take classes in those areas while they are still in high school, rather than taking a remedial class when they reach UAA. The test takes up to 2 hours. Tricia is working with Darla Jones (Secondary Technology) and they are hoping to give the assessment to juniors this spring.

Darla Jones, Secondary Instructional Technology, presented information regarding a writing assessment program, MY Access, a prompt-driven writing program. Three schools will be piloting... Crossroads, MYC, and Eagle River High School.

Reports:

Mike Graham, East High Principal, reported that at East, as well as other high schools, the number of juniors and seniors who have passed the reading portion of the HSGQE is increasing significantly. He also reported that the pool of prospective English teachers is not very deep. General agreement was expressed by several.

In absentia, Kristidel Pandolfo's report included that information regarding the timelines for the College Board audit of AP courses. The school password for the audit will not be sent to administrators until late January or early February.

Unfinished Business

- English 11 Pilot book orders – Mardell requested that department chairs let Tony Freeman know when the book orders have been completely filled. Invoices cannot be paid until we have confirmation of each school's invoice.

- Mardell reported that if the HSLACC committee recommends in favor of the English 11 curriculum, it is very likely that by Spring, 2008, the School Board will pass the English 11 requirement. The pilot will continue until that time and the guides will be enhanced as input is received. This timeline gives West, Bartlett, and Dimond the time and opportunity to become familiar with the curriculum. Concurrently, the English elective offerings must be re-visited and aligned with state and local GLEs.

- English electives discussion

Each committee member was given 12 post-it notes to indicate electives that should remain due to content and student interest. Presently there are approximately 39+ electives available for English elective credit. Each course has a 1 to 2 page description with learner objectives and behaviors. None is based on standards and each is open to interpretation and license by the school and the instructor. While several courses have been fully developed across the district by individual teachers, the curriculum is not equitable nor standards based.

Mardell asked if anyone would be interested in combining some of the electives into a year-long "humanities" class. The general consensus was that students might miss out on the diversity of other teachers. A variety of electives during the senior year give students more choice, and a year-long "elective course" would place a lock on scheduling possibilities.

There are some classes that possibly could be collapsed (example: Dignity and Diversity and Multicultural Lit), and Ellen Scott pointed out that we should take a look at the English 11 curriculum to determine if some of the dropped literature might be folded into English 11. Kathie Steele posed the question

we should be asking: “*Is this elective course meeting the standards we are supposed to be teaching?*” The discussion will continue. Mardell encouraged each department chair to initiate this discussion in respective school and to note teacher input.

New Business

Mardell passed out her calendar for her visits to the high schools.

Discussion of Acuplacer testing followed discussion of the English 11 pilot. There is concern regarding the expectation by UAA that ASD create some new curriculum to help students who did not score well in the Acuplacer. ASD already has courses/curriculum that address the intervention and remediation.

Announcements: Teachers’ Choice Books...Readers needed for chapter books

Adjournment at 5:15PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rumps, Benny Benson

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