

High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee Meeting
Mardell Kiesel – Curriculum Coordinator
ASD ED Center - Red Room – February 20, 2007

Present:

Mary Henderson (Bartlett);
Martin Lang (Eagle River);
Chris Rumps (Benson);
Gayle Boyer (Crossroads);
Glenn Wright (South);
Kristidel Pandolfo (AP);
Ann Morgester (Bartlett library);
Judy Olive (MYC);
Brett Burkhart (Dimond);
Kathie Steele (Chugiak);
Tricia Johnson (West)
Bob Vandergriff (Steller)
Michael Graham (East High Principal)

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Approved

Minutes from January 16, 2007, approved as distributed.

Agenda Approved

Reports:

Mike Graham, East High Principal, was also representing the EHS English Department. No news to report.

Ann Morgester, Bartlett Library, introduced information about *The Big Read*, and the selection for community reading, Fahrenheit 451. She also indicated that the Battle of the Books list would be available soon. Mardell asked Ann if she could post the list of books on the Language Arts website.

As a tie-in to the discussion, Mardell informed the Committee that teachers who would like to teach the book should contact her, as books and teaching materials are available for our schools. It is presently listed as supplementary text to English 11. Discussion followed regarding whether it should be available for English 9 as either a class novel or as a choice book. The Committee was generally in favor of using this title at grade levels in addition to Eng. 11 since it is supplementary and not “core.”

Unfinished Business

Kristidel Pandolfo reported that the AP Audit/Syllabus Workshop is set for Friday, March 2 at South High. For teachers who may not be able to attend the workshop, contact Kristidel. Copies of the current syllabus and textual resources should be brought to the workshop. Teachers need to sign up on

MLP. The account code for substitutes will be sent to the teacher and to the AA at the respective building. (*March 1*)

English elective discussion followed using a list of electives Martin Lang suggested in an e-mail to Mardell. Chris Rumps voiced a concern that Vocab/Grammar, if removed, would be a loss to ESL students at the alternative schools. Mardell wondered if it could fit into the Linguistics and Grammar class. Gayle Boyer spoke up in favor of keeping a Children's Lit class. Should it be integrated into Short Story, or is that a stretch? Brett Burkhart suggested that everyone on the Committee bring in a list of the electives preferred by each LA department. Mike Graham worried that we would then be looking at 12 different lists, which would prove to be "a nightmare to process" into a final list.

Discussion, led by Glenn Wright, centered on an emphasis of including good literature and writing in whatever electives we choose to offer. He suggested that teachers write up course descriptions, tied to standards, so we can discuss the expectations of each course. Mardell added..."It is important that we re-work those courses that lack pedagogy, purpose and content."

New Business

Mardell proposed that all language arts teachers are invited to the ASD Summer Academy to discuss curriculum guides and best practices. The participants will decide work calendars for grade-level, work groups. She passed around a sign-up sheet for nominations to the Curriculum Camp. We may also bring names in to the April HSLACC meeting

Announcements: Next HSLACC April 24, 2007

Adjournment at 5:17PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rumps, Benny Benson

In the folder:

4 Minutes of January 16, 2007

4 *The Big Read* information ([Fahrenheit 451](#))

4 Invitation to ASD Education Center Open House