



# High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

November 18, 2008

Location: Orange Room/ED Center, 3:30 PM- 5:00 PM

Preparing Students to be Successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Welcome Everyone!

**Attending:** Marcus Reese, Julie Besch, Beth Ann Brogan, Kathy Steele, Janice Strickland, Judy Olive, Francine Jackson, Mary Henderson, Devon Roberts, Marina Gantz, Ann Morgester, Kristidel McGregor, Glenn Wright, Marty Lang, Suzanne Metcalfe, Leslie Fleming, Gayle Boyer, Chris Rumps

**Guests:** Rhonda Gardner, Vernon Campbell, and Zareena Clendaniel

**Call to Order** - 3:31 p.m.

- **Introductions**  
Dr. Jennifer Stone, UAA English Dept. Representative
- **Agenda Approval**
- **Minutes Approval - MMSC (Motion Made Seconded & Carried)**

## **Continuing Business/Reports**

- PK-12 Graduation Support/Dropout Intervention Plan  
Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

### **What can we do to support and prevent students from dropping out?**

Rhonda is committed to gathering input from everyone regarding this major concern in our district. She has already compiled 18 pages of feedback and has invited HSLACC and respective departments to be involved.

Discussion followed:

- How do we involve more families at the secondary levels and foster support for the value of education?
- Carnegie credits don't seem to work.
- School as a community center seems to be working.
- Concept of "school" needs to be expanded.

Rhonda reported that she was intrigued by the work and gains at Brockton High in Massachusetts—(4200 students) where **literacy is the key to everything!** (Check out the website) **Rhonda asked, "What would it take to restructure our delivery of our education?"**

HSLACC was requested to send input on these questions to Mardell. She will compile and forward to Rhonda.

- English and HQ Designation – Closure! MMSC  
Vernon Campbell, Director of Accountability

- Suzanne Metcalfe, AK Representative for ALAN, (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents – division of National Council for Teachers of English)  
Suzanne is going to the conference and will gather the latest teen literature. She will report back to HSLACC on her findings. She also reminded everyone that the membership fee to ALAN is a worthwhile investment (#20) if you want to keep up on the latest in adolescent literature.

- Kristidel McGregor, Project Appeal,  
The evaluations indicated that all participants enjoyed the Advanced Placement course in November. College Board consultant, Sharon Johnson received kudos and requests to return. Project Appeal has reached its last year of grant funding. Kristidel asked the following:

1. Is there someone in your department who stills needs and requests AP training?
2. What type of training would be most beneficial to you and your department? (HSLACC member suggested vertical teaming.)

- English Elective: Bible as Literature Curriculum Guide Presentation - MMSC  
Glenn Wright and Mary Lee Knight

Points of consideration:

- Uses literary devices and terms of literature
- Reveals Biblical allusions in literature
- Refers to Scott Foresman text - *Bible as Literature*
- 13<sup>th</sup> elective with standards-based curriculum guide

Devon and Marcus have staff in their respective schools that want to do a film and media curriculum guide. The Committee was reminded that Curriculum Guides will be considered as they are written, and provided to HSLACC...and as the district provides budgetary support (if necessary). Mardell reminded the committee that the purpose of the curriculum refresh is to make relevant connections to our students and to provide standards-based curriculum with assessments. All curriculum refresh documents must have an intentional connection to 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and applications.

- English Electives Budget & Support: Plans and Orders  
HSLACC members shared plans for English elective offerings and title suggestions

- Digital Composition at ERHS, Marty Lang

- Marty reported that students are highly engaged
- History of ethics introduced the semester of study
- Need for new “ethics” as our cyber world has changed (Students wrote their own code of ethics – pod casts were created and shared.)
- Audience changes with digital compositions
- Students wrote a researched paper on a controversial issue

- Technical Writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Text support suggestions)

- *Write for Business* (Great Source) (Written for grades 11 and 12 w/CD)
- *Technical Writing for Success*

- Most of the texts that have been sent for preview are intended for college level courses
  - Mardell will compile a set of preview copies and provide at the meeting.
- February

### **New Business**

- UAA English Department Representative  
Jennifer Stone –
  - Teaches first year college composition course
  - Information exchange will be beneficial for both UAA and ASD

Next time:

- Digital Pipeline with Ann Morgester, Coordinator of Libraries
- APEX Course Offerings and District Connections with Julie Besch, ED  
Technology

### **For the Good of the Order:**

Bob Vandergriff, Steller, requests 15 copies of *Grapes of Wrath* by Steinbeck.  
(Who will heed his need? Devon/Service)

Grade 9 English Curriculum Review Committee will receive *China's Son: Growing Up in the Cultural Revolution* and each is also requested to read *Walkabout* by James Vance Marshall

**In the folder:**

- **Minutes**

**Announcements: HSLACC – January 20, 2009 – Orange Room**

**Adjourned: 5:02 PM**