



# High School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

January 20, 2009

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: Ann Morgester, Jennifer Stone, Marcus Reese, Marty Lange, Kathy Steele, Kristidel McGregor, Patty Irwin, Mary Henderson, Devon Roberts, Glenn Wright, Martina Gantz, Beth Ann Brogan, Mike Graham, Ellen Scott, Francine Jackson, Gail Boyer, Kristine Stout, Scott Hickox

Guests: Joe Hackenmueller – Educational Technology

### Call to Order - 3:35 p.m.

- **Introductions**
- **Agenda Approved**
- **Minutes Approved - MMSC (Motion Made Seconded & Carried)**

### Continuing Business/Reports

#### • **Digital Pipeline – Ann Morgester**

Free service and valuable research tool for teachers and students– see handout of Power Point.

#### • **English 9 Curriculum Committee Recommendation – Committee Members**

The Committee reviewed textbooks from three publishers (Glencoe, Prentice Hall and Holt). Devon reported that Glencoe aligned well with the “refreshed” curriculum guide. Holt publishers failed to submit textbooks for hands-on review so limited exposure was through a PowerPoint presentation. The Prentice Hall program featured technology integration that was very attractive to the committee; however, the literature did not align with our ninth grade curriculum. The Glencoe anthology and related resources provided the best fit with our integrated curriculum. Questions raised by HSLACC members included:

- Do we want to invest our budget in textbooks or novels? Will we get both types of resources? Can we justify the cost of the textbooks? Will there be enough support for the curriculum guide if we only purchase novels? Will there be enough support for comprehensive instruction if we only purchase novels? Ideally, we need a combination of program resources (anthology +) and trade books that address cultural responsiveness and differentiation and motivation factors.

Glenn presented the possibility of ASD doing our own online support for world literature. Mardell voiced support for “customized” text /online resources and stated that such work would have to be initiated early in the review process. (Tenth grade)

The work of the ninth grade committee is not finished. Committee members continue to read and recommend trade books. (*China's Son* by Da Chen was recommended as an engaging book).

- **Book Orders: Original and Current**

- Book orders were submitted as prices and quantities were confirmed.
  - Books will arrive in schools to the attention of the DC.
  - Technical writing preview books are going to South to be reviewed.

- **English 111 cancelled at West – Beth Ann Brogan and Jennifer Stone**

- This course was canceled due to a number of factors. More time was necessary to be fully prepared for this college-level course on a high school campus. Also, students didn't want a non-weighted class on their transcripts as it had the potential to jeopardize GPAs. Secondary ED and the West High administration will review this course and successful implementation.

- ALAN conference – Suzanne Metcalfe – tabled
- APEX English courses and Trends for ASD – Julie Besch

## **New Business**

- **Grammar and Usage Benchmark Assessment – Joe Hackenmueller, Devon Roberts and Francine Jackson**

- Devon and Francine worked with Joe to create the grammar/usage, writing assessment. The Ninth Grade Curriculum Review Committee vetted the assessment and now it is ready to be piloted with a few ninth grade teachers. The computer assessment has several, immediate, feedback options. Contact Joe with classroom roster if you are interested.

- **Children's Literature Presentation – Patti Irwin and Glenn Wright**

- MMSC to use the name of Children's Literature vs. Classics.
  - Patti Irwin presented the first draft of this elective and explained the purposes for this curriculum. Glenn spoke to the need for this course as it addresses child development stages and the need for quality literacy experiences for children of all ages. Reading and writing strategies are integral to this course. Mardell will co-consult/write this course and she called for other interested authors. Contact Patti Irwin if you are a staff member is interested.

- **English Electives**

- Committee discussed approved, Journalism courses and how they support a newspaper program. Beth Ann reminded the Committee that Journalism I is a one-semester, .5 credits, and English elective course. Journalism II is a one-semester, .5 credit, English elective course that is repeatable for general elective credit. The current, fifteen electives have standards-based curriculum guides and will be offered during the 09-010 school year. Beyond next year, additional electives will be considered by the HSLACC as they are proposed and accompanied by comprehensive curriculum guides.

- **Strategic Reading and Writing English Elective – Mardell Kiesel**

- Mr. Henry (Executive Director of Secondary ED) requested a curriculum for this course that would address reading and writing needs of students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. This curriculum will combine best practices from courses formerly

entitled Reading Foundations I & II, and Career and Strategic Reading and Writing. Emphasis on writing and/or reading strategies will be determined by the needs of the students. The Zangle number must be changed so it is an English credit. (Mardell researched the number and it is considered an English elective in Zangle...per Mary McKean)

- Request for second reader: *Dragonsblood*, by McCaffrey (HSLACC needs to review and update the “approved for instruction” spreadsheet of titles before the end of the year.)

**For the Good of the Order:**

**Discussion Posts on [hslateachers.ning.com](http://hslateachers.ning.com)**

In the folder:

- Minutes
- Book orders (Please return the originals in the folder provided)

**Announcements: HSLACC – February 17, 2009 – Orange Room**

**Adjourned: 5:37 PM**

**Respectfully submitted by Gail Boyer**