

Call to order : 3:45 PM

Introductions

Agenda approved:

Reports:

1. **Michael Perkins:** Kudos to Amy Goodman, Jan Davis, Brenda Fenton and Ruth Mount for all the support given to middle schools for Student Led conferences. He appreciates all the sharing of materials.
2. **Amy Goodman:** New Materials! BOYFANS posters that were used during Summer School – Amy will do a district printing and make these posters available for all middle schools. These come from Jeff Anderson, author of Mechanically Inclined. There are also reading posters based on the work of Ellen Keane. Plus, don't forget The Student Friendly Guide to Writing with Traits.
3. **Brenda Fenton:** In process of meeting with gifted teams across the district. One issue that has arisen is the lack of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade gifted core novel. Titles that have been suggested are White Fang, Call of the Wild, Tom Sawyer, Old Man and the Sea. One point of discussion is that Tom Sawyer is a title that many teachers have expressed difficulty with teaching.
4. **Linda Richardson:** Special Education is now divided into two levels: A/B for students reading at 3.5 grade level and C/D for students reading at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Bridges to Literature may be used in Study Skills class for supplemental material. Self-contained Special Ed. Classes are using Continued Language.
5. **Mardell Kiesel:** Review of Middle School minutes from April 11, 2006. Some changes need to be made to reflect the correct core novel selections. There is still some debate about which grade teaches which books at which schools. Also keep in mind that some schools have multi-grade levels within their schools. The more that gets added, the more difficult it is to accomplish. May Smith made a motion to approve minutes with corrections; Judy Onslow seconded. Motioned passed. Also, there is information available regarding budget constrictions (handout). It is imperative that numbers of core materials currently held and those needed to implement the curriculum get to Mardell no later than Nov. 1.

#### **Unfinished Business: Amy Goodman and the Middle School High Five**

- Look on the Middle Link for new handouts for Read Around the Text and Sum it Up!
- There are some Step Up to Writing videotapes on order which can be used for training of new teachers. There are short clips available on the Step Up to Writing website.

- Middle School High Five: Continued need for staff development; Amy presenting works best. Possibility of adding to the High Five. Navigating through non-fiction – 11 strategies in 45 minutes. Staff development through team time, department meetings, and staff meetings (use different departments to highlight rather than always a LA teacher; can be a quick 5 minute presentation)
- Student Led Conferences: Some schools have a lot of goal setting and self-reflection; others have very little. Some schools have teacher directed choices and others allow students to select their own representative pieces.
- Staff Development: Currently Title 1 funds allow for some training time at certain schools; breakfast time; curriculum Monday (what about people teaching more than one subject); department meetings

### **New Business:**

- We may be deciding on what to order at the November meeting.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing sequence – check with department regarding concerns (Wendler made AYP last year and is worried that this year's won't be as successful)
- Connecting Books with Boys (Michael Sullivan): there is some release time available for next Monday
- There are also some days with roving subs that could cover classes so the people who hear Michael Sullivan could disseminate information to the others in your building
- Poetry Alive audio CD for everyone!

**Meeting adjourned 5:25**