

.Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

November 14, 2006

Location: Boniface Center - Ebony Room

3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

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
4. Establishing diversity in the workforce

Refreshments, Materials Preview, and Catching up With Colleagues

Call to Order

Introductions

Agenda Approval

Reports:

- Michael Perkins and/or Michelle Johansen, Middle School Administration Reps
- Amy Goodman, MS Literacy Support
- Brenda Fenton, Gifted Education
- Mardell Kiesel, Coordinator

Continuing Business

- 4 Following-up on ACTIVE, High Five, SLC's and the Curriculum Guides training
- 4 Book Room Inventories and Orders
- 4 Motion to approve three titles for Gifted Education (*Old Man and the Sea*, *White Fang* and *Call of the Wild*)

New Business

- 4 *Writing Next* and 11 recommended strategies (FQR)
- 4 Young Writer's Retreat... March 31, 2007 (Wendler)
- How does MSLACC want to be involved?
- 4 Welcome Aboard! Nicholas J. Begich Middle School School
- 4 Culturally Responsive Lesson Plans for Curriculum Guides

In the Folder

- 7 Minutes (October 10)
- 7 Book approval Form
- 7 Word Play information
- 7 LA Online!
- 7 Connecting Boys to Books (Talking Points) with Michael Sullivan
- 7 Alaska Native Heritage Center (11-18-06)
- 7 Culturally Responsive Education
- Announcements... Next MSLACC January 16, 2007

Following the Leaders, a review of the High Five, and six-trait assessment. A big thank you to Sherry Girard, Sharon Pinkney, and Art LaRue for making this happen. High Five - Benny Benson requested training, which Amy completed.

Step Up to Writing - Amy gave a half-day training (along with Nancy Walker from Title 1) to Sp. Ed. TA's during their Round Table in-service. In addition, the training videotapes that were purchased have arrived and are available for check out.

Middle School Planner Revisions - Four schools are currently using planners printed by KCC. LA dept chairs have been asked to get revision ideas from their students. MLMS sent detailed feedback using their Student Forum. Please send your revision ideas to Amy, ASAP.

Muldoon Area Middle School - Amy sat in on the interviews for language arts. Jeanne Fisher selected three teachers in LA as well as each of the other subject areas to begin the planning for the school. Additional staff will be hired in the spring. Mardell and Amy are meeting with Leslie Vandergaw to discuss the 6th grade literacy program materials as well as the materials for 7th and 8th grade. Clark and Wendler currently use different reading anthologies, so merging these into MMS becomes an issue.

Social Studies - Steve Ex and Amy are working together to evaluate team trainings from last year on Step Up to Writing. Amy will be attending his December meeting to discuss the High Five, the Middle Link, and Step Up to Writing plans for the future.

PE - Amy is exploring a new angle of literacy experiences for students in PE. Can we start thinking of literacy in non-print ways? Can students use before, during, and after strategies to "read" a basketball game? Could the same idea hold true for art students? Can they practice active reading of prints and photographs? If you have thoughts or resources on this, please send them to Amy.

- **Brenda Fenton, Gifted Education** - Socratic seminar is the big buzz...especially at Clark, where many trainings have taken place. There are several good pieces for seminar that have been identified to correlate with the curriculum. Also, we are working with underachieving gifted students. The behavioral strategist is working with over 80 kids currently. Homework has been an issue studied by the teachers of the gifted this year.

- **Mardell Kiesel, LA Coordinator** -

4Mardell shared highlights and "talking points" from Michael Sullivan's presentation entitled, *Connecting Boys and Books*.

- Reading aloud is nearly as effective for language attainment as silent reading with the exception of spelling. "We punish kids for learning to read by stopping the practice of reading aloud to them." (Sullivan)
- Audio books are as effective as other read-aloud experiences. Males buy more audio books than females.
- Boys do not have as many reading role models as girls.
- Kids read to their interest level not their reading level.
- Picture books belong at all instructional levels.
- Socratic Seminar provides excellent instructional strategies for critical reading.

Ideas for Creating Literacy Cultures in School:

1. **Literacy Lunch**... volunteer reader starts reading a motivating book in the library during lunchtime...at the same time every day. Students who are going to the "Literacy Lunch" get passes to go to the head of the lunch line.
2. **Post pictures of school staff** with the title of the current book they are reading...or a picture of the book they are reading.
3. **Designate a shelf** in the library as "staff picks" much like the chain bookstores. Change the display regularly to maintain interest.
4. Everyone **seen with a book** is given a ticket for a drawing at the end of the week.
5. **Contest with clues** about an unidentified book and teacher... reveal at the end of the week or contest deadline.

4 **Hanshaw LA Department** recently met for a half-day to identify curriculum alignments and support the implementation of the curriculum guides. (Marcia Indahl organized this opportunity for her department.)

4The department co-chairs for the **new MS** are **Anne Barnett and Bill Bajczyk**.

4 Each department chair is asked to confirm the book requests for implementation of the curriculum guides. (Folder is being passed to each chairperson)

4 **LA Online!** - has a new look....all of the links are current. Check it out!

Continuing Business

Amy requested time to follow-up on ACTIVE, High Five, and SLC's, two column notes (Topic = Moving Forward); partner share; FQR Chart and ideas for improving two-column notes and summary writing

4 Book Room Inventories and Orders

A folder was sent around the table containing the emails sent to Mardell that identify each site's needs and what already exists in the bookrooms. School

representatives were asked to confirm the contents. Romig has not yet submitted a resource request.

4 Motion was made by Brenda Fenton to approve three titles for Gifted Education and to be noted in the curriculum guide for grades 7 & 8. (*Old Man and the Sea*, *White Fang*, and *Call of the Wild*)

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

4 *Writing Next* and 11 recommended strategies (FQR)

The Carnegie Corporation has identified eleven writing strategies as being effective in improving adolescent writing. Using the Fact/Question/Response chart, each person took a strategy and then discussed it with several others. Then a "one-line" approach of sharing all 11 strategies took place.

4 *Young Writer's Retreat...* March 31, 2007 (Wendler)

How does MSLACC want to be involved?

- 235 kids involved last year
- Do we need a MS strand? Come with ideas to the next MSLACC!

4 *Welcome Aboard!* Nicholas J. Begich Middle School

4 *Culturally Responsive Lesson Plans for the MS Guide*

Mardell asked that MSLACC review the Culturally Responsive Education plan for curriculum...how is your school doing? Do you already have lessons that follow this plan? If you have lessons or have other staff members that have developed lessons, and are willing to share them in an UBD format, let Mardell know. (There will be financial compensation...more to follow)

Are there any templates for lesson plans that have a place with standards in place? Marcie Indahl asked if there are electronic templates available for lesson planning that include the standards. Mardell will report back at the next MSLACC.

In the Folder

7 Minutes (October 10) Approved

7 Book approval Form - will examine more in January

7 Word Play information - Poet willing to work in the schools

7 LA Online!

Announcements... Next MSLACC January 16, 2007 (Date changed to 1/9...Orange Room, ASD ED Center)

Meeting adjourned: 5:17 PM

Respectfully submitted by Diana Daniels - Goldenview and Mardell Kiesel LA Coordinator

