

Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

January 9, 2007

Location: ASD ED Center- Orange 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: (1-2 minutes)

- Michael Perkins and/or Michelle Johansen, Middle School Administration Reps
- Amy Goodman, MS Literacy Support
- Brenda Fenton, Gifted Education
- Linda Richardson, Special Education
- Beth Hartley & Maureen Wm-Cornelius, ESL
- Mardell Kiesel, LA Coordinator

Continuing Business

- 4 Book Orders and Purchasing Procedures
- 4 Teacher's Choice Books - Readers Needed

New Business

- 4 "Writing - What's Hot & What's Not" with Amy Goodman
- 4 Gates - MacGinitie Reading Tests and the Correlation to the SBAs, or Not ... a discussion with Laurel Vorachek, Director of Assessment and Staff
- 4 ASD Teacher Academy... Courses
- 4 Curriculum Camp

In the Folder

- 7 Minutes (October 10)
- 7 "Postcards from My Classroom"
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- 7
- 7

□ Announcements... Next MSLACC February 13, 2007

Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

January 9, 2007

Location: ASD ED Center - Orange Room

4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

Present:

Mardell Kiesel
Amy Goodman
Brenda Fenton
May Smith
Marcie Indahl
Michelle Foss
Diana Daniels
Art LaRue
Sharon Pinkney
Janene Schoenborn
Beth Hartley
Maureen Wms-Cornelius
Judy Onslow
Stacy Miller
Laura Fitzgerald
Michelle Johannsen
Keri Barter
Bob Vandergriff (excused)

School/Program

ASD LA Coordinator
MS Literacy
Gifted Coordinator
Mirror Lake
Hanshaw
Gruening
Goldenview
Clark
Clark
Wendler
Bilingual/Multicultural
ESL
Girdwood
Mears
Central
AP Polaris
Romig
Steller

Excused:

Rhea Bowman
Linda Richardson

MYC
Special ED

Refreshments, Materials Preview, and Catching up With Colleagues

Call to Order 3:45 PM

Introductions

Agenda Approval

- Beth Hartley / Maureen Wms-Cornelius, ESL -
ESL testing begins in February.

Assessment: Looking at the predictive analysis of the Gates-MacGinitie Test on the SBA Reading Test - the two tests are highly predictive of one another; that is, if a student does well on one test, he/she will do well on the other and vice versa. Over the course of two years, this data held true (approximately 90%)

predictability). If the Gates-MacGinite test provided more diagnostic information, it might be a more valuable tool; however, it seems to offer similar or less diagnostic information than the SBA. There is a possibility that the Gates might be useful for students new to our district who come to us with no testing information.

The Math Assessment Dashboard has a section called "Math Recommendations"; the idea is that a similar section will be added for Language Arts. The Assessment department is interested in the feedback of this committee as to the views, concerns, etc. of this concept. It is critical that this system be kept current for it to work.

A vote was taken as to the implementation of this assessment dashboard:

- Motion: Judy Onslow moved that the MSLACC committee accept the Assessment Department's proposal for including a Language Arts Recommendation section to the assessment dashboard (including 6th, 7th, and 8th grade recommendations) for the following year's course placement.
Seconded by Sharon Pinkney

Motion passed 15 yea, 1 abstain

Writing - What's Hot and What's Not? Amy Goodman would like to visit departments during the second semester, specifically focusing on writing. She has prepared copies for schools of The Writing Student's Strategy Guide, and would like to do a 45 minute- 1 hour training.

ASD Teacher Academy Mardell would like to start "Curriculum Camp" during the Academy time. Are there classes you want to see? Are there classes you are willing to teach? Get feedback to Mardell

Continuing Business

Teacher's Choice Books: Readers are needed, so pick up some books and READ

Book Orders and Purchasing Procedures: Cost estimations for several different materials have been prepared and mock orders for each school are shown. Phase I will allow \$3000 for purchases of materials of core materials for each school!!! Get your orders ready! Due by Jan 12, 2007

In the Folder

7 Minutes (November 14) Motion to approve minute made by Staci Miller, seconded by Janene Schoeborn. Minutes approved

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Announcements...

Meeting adjourned: 5:18 PM

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