

# **Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee**

March 12, 2007

Location: ASD ED Center - Orange Room

4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

**Refreshments, Materials Preview, and Catching up With Colleagues**

Call to Order 4:00 PM

Introductions

Agenda Approval

## **Continuing Business**

1) *Gates MacGinitie* and appropriate use at the mid levels... a continued discussion with Xiaogeng Sun and Kristine Liebner from A&E

2) Grade 6 curriculum in the middle levels and transition recommendations with MSLACC

3) Middle school electives and the POS

**Announcements...**

## **In the Folder**

7 Minutes (2/13)

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## **Present**

Bill Bajczyk

Sharon Pinkney

Judy Onslow

Diana Daniels

Michelle Foss

Marcia Indahl

Lisa Peckham

May Smith

Janene Schoenborn

Sherry Girard

Brenda Fenton

Linda Richardson

Michelle Johansen

Todd Rankin

## **School/Program**

Clark

Clark

Girdwood

Goldenview

Gruening

Hanshaw

Mears

Mirror Lake

Wendler

Follow the Leader

Gifted

SpEd

Polaris

Nunaka Valley

## **Refreshments, Materials Preview, and Catching up With Colleagues**

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## **Continuing Business**

1) *Gates MacGinitie* and appropriate use at the mid levels... a continued discussion with Dr. Xiaoqeng Sun and Kristine Liebner from Assessment & Evaluation

- Discussion regarding motion from January meeting. That motion concerned adding LA information to the Assessment Dashboard.
- A & E has conducted a two-year study of the predictability between the SBA and *Gates MacGinitie* test. There is a 90% relationship between students who are proficient on one test being proficient on the other. For the last two or three years, all mid level students have been pre and post tested on the *Gates* throughout the District. Some schools are using these to ability group students and for placement in reading class. The information, especially for comprehension, has been shared with other core teachers to indicate students who may have difficulty in those areas.
- Explanation of NCE (National Curve Equivalent) by Dr. Sun. The NCE break down scores into equal intervals as opposed to PR (Percentile Rank), which follows the bell curve. We should avoid use of Grade Equivalent scores

because they are so often misinterpreted. Also, NCE scores are set up to effectively compare student progress from year to year. NCEs can be averaged by class, school, and district.

- Issues to consider...both for and against the further use of Gates. Why use four days of instruction to administer a test that provides data that should be extracted from the SBAs? What about new-to-district students who have no test scores? What about kids who didn't take the SBAs seriously? Why does it have to be administered in LA classes?
- We need to come to a common understanding of what scores we use and how we report the results to parents.

### **Pros for Keeping the Test**

- \* Team Tool - show where kids are
- \* SpEd students
- \* New to District
- \* Quick/Easy
- \* Norm Referenced
- \* Multiple measures
- \* Inexpensive
- \* Predictive of SBA success

### **Pros for Eliminating/Modifying Use of the Test:**

Use only for new to state students only

Will addendum still be available?

Use only at beginning of year?

Standardize reporting

Loss of 4 days of instruction

- MM&C to table the vote until representatives of this committee have had the opportunity to visit with their departments/schools/teams and share these findings. Motion passed 13 Yea 1 Nay

## **2) Grade 6 curriculum in the middle levels and transition recommendations from MSLACC**

- Enid Silverstein, Leslie Vandergaw, Amy Goodman, and Mardell Kiesel met at length concerning the best way to incorporate the 6<sup>th</sup> grade with the current middle school model. A variety of issues including materials, curriculum, etc. were discussed.

**Points of discussion included the following:**

- McDougall Littell and Prentice Hall have both been approached in very preliminary fashion to see what they have to offer. PH is considering the possibility of creating a customized text for Anchorage.
- Contact more publishers
- Tie ins with social/emotional needs of the kids.
- There needs to be similar accountability for 6<sup>th</sup> graders across the district.
- There are 1000 middle school students who are not proficient...how can we address the needs of those students?
- How should the district address those 6<sup>th</sup> graders who remain in the K-6 configuration versus those in the 6-8 or K-8 configuration?
- Can we write a 6<sup>th</sup> grade guide? This needs to be brought on-board as soon as possible.
- We need to be able to live with whatever decision is made for the next 10 years...

### 3) Middle school electives and the POS (Program of Studies)

- Look at the Language Arts Electives in the Middle School Program of Studies and fill out the grid as it relates to your school. Bring it back to April meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:38 PM

**Respectfully submitted by Diana Daniels, Goldenvue Middle School**