



Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

**October 14, 2008 Location: ASD ED Center – Board Room – East Side
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**

Refreshments (H2O) & Catching up With Colleagues

Call to Order 3:45 PM

Introductions and Highlights

Agenda Approval

Minutes Approval (January 15, 2008)

Reports: (1-2 minutes)

- Mardell Kiesel, 341.21 Curriculum Committees
- Lisa Zelenkov, Middle School Administration
- Amy Goodman, MS Literacy Support
- Ann Morgester, Library Coordinator

Continuing Business

4 Enhancements for the “approved for instruction” list of titles: Diana Daniels

- Need
- Process

4 Recommended Packing List for Begich, Grade 6: Art LaRue

New Business

4 Vernon Campbell, NCLB Vernon Campbell, NCLB

4 Pre-AP Training Opportunity with Kristidel McGregor

4 Healthy Heroes: Is there a fit with the 8th grade curriculum? Discussion led by Mardell
(Contact: Harlow Robinson, AK Sports Hall of Fame)

4 Curriculum Development and Alignment: Beth Hartley

4 Curriculum Guide Refresh: What are the basics? Amy and Mardell

- Process
- Product

4

4

In the Folder

- Minutes (January 15)
- ASD Board Policy: Curriculum Committees
- Article: Pacing Guides: ASCD
- Healthy Heroes book
- In-service Feedback
- Letters About Literature
- Middle School Program of Studies

Announcements... “For the good of the order.”

Next MSLACC November 13, 2008

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Brain-based quick-write activity – two songs, used to evoke memories. Shared writing and noted “trait” that was in evidence.

Introductions and Highlights

Agenda Approval Agenda approved

Minutes Approval (January 15, 2008) Ann Morgester motioned to accept minutes as noted. Martina Henke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports: (1-2 minutes)

• Mardell Kiesel, 341.21 Curriculum Committees

Mardell brought information from the School Board Policy regarding the roles and functions of curriculum committees. Please review the information and see if there are any glaring gaps. Discussion regarding whether we should be seeking a parent representative for this committee took place. Let Mardell know if you have recommendations.

• Amy Goodman, MS Literacy Support Cohort training started on Monday and continued today. The training is receiving positive feedback. There is a Reading Intervention class currently underway. Other classes/ training featuring Step Up to Writing and Socratic Seminar will be happening soon.

• Ann Morgester, Library Coordinator Ann brought a multitude of dictionary and thesauri samples for people to evaluate. New recommendations will be put in to the list item catalog. The deadline for these evaluations is prior to the holidays. Electronic sources can be considered as well.

Continuing Business

4 Enhancements for the “approved for instruction” list of titles: Diana Daniels

Need Diana brought up the issue of a need for new, current titles for the curriculum guide.

• Process There was discussion about how to locate resources (perhaps using the wiki), involve students in the process, the use of professional reviews, and how many readers should be required prior to approval. Please go back to your schools and

discuss this issue. It will be revisited in December, as will the novel The Lightning Thief, which has been recommended for 7th grade, Unit 2.

4 Recommended Packing List for Begich, Grade 6: Art LaRue

New Business

4 Vernon Campbell, NCLB

Vernon explained the requirements for earning a Highly Qualified designation to teach English. While there are several routes to achieve this designation, the one he wanted to explain today in more detail was the Major Equivalency HQ option, which asks for 30 hours in the content area, with a specified blend of courses. Diana Daniels made a motion to endorse the proposed draft. Michael Warren seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Post vote, Beth Hartley will pursue information regarding TESOL credits.

4 Pre-AP Training Opportunity with Kristidel McGregor Consider attending a Teaching AP Literature training Nov. 7th and 8th. Many of the skills in AP teaching are definitely applicable to middle school.

4 Healthy Heroes: Is there a fit with the 8th grade curriculum? Discussion led by Mardell (Contact: Harlow Robinson, AK Sports Hall of Fame) Some discussion regarding the use of this in either 7th grade LA (heroes and/or Alaska) or 8th grade health classes. The committee expressed preference for grade 7 and connections to the curriculum.

4 Curriculum Development and Alignment: Beth Hartley Tabled due to time.

4 Curriculum Guide Refresh: What are the basics? Amy and Mardell

- Process
- Product Tabled due to time

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

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Next MSLACC December 9, 2008