

# Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

February 11, 2009

Location: ASD ED Center- ASD Board 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
- "We have more than a reading achievement gap, we have a life-outcome gap."
  - "How do we move from theoretical courage to practical courage?"
  - "Do we give the discouraged a fluency strategy, a Latin root, a grammar rule...or do we promote a healthy psyche, a road map to future possibilities, relevant text and opportunities to write?" Dr. Alfred Tatum

(alfredtatum.com and aaamsli.blogspot.com)

## Catching up With Colleagues

### Call to Order

- Admit Slip: Textual Lineages

What is your textual lineage? If you are going to teach others and tell them it is important to read and write, then you must be a reader and a writer. You must be able to articulate what it took to get you to that point. A list of literary landmarks that influenced you as a literate person. Fill one out for yourself, and then have students do it. Lineage can be bleak or rich, and it can be varied. A story read by a teacher vs being read to in the womb. be open and sensitive to each student's backgrounds.

### Introductions

Agenda Approval: Approved

Minutes Approval (December 9, 2009) Approved

## Reports: (1-2 minutes)

- Skills Alaska/Grammar Usage Assessment with Joe Hackenmueller

Joe got together with Joe Zawodny. and Lee Butterfield. They did all the work to create a mid year benchmark to try out. They looked at a similar test created by high school teachers. They have grammar assessments ready to deliver at select schools. Wendler, Romig, Gruening, Goldenview, Begich. One class period. Email Joe Hackenmueller and let him know which days, and he will turn it on.

## Continuing Business

▶ • • Middle School Adoption...Continuing the Process with Amy Goodman

We still have the same guaranteed and viable curriculum and the McDL materials work with that. She will go over the materials; what is coming, when it is coming. A lot of money and time invested in these materials. Amy feels confident that all materials will be located in your building, stamped, accessible, etc.

Inventory based on principals' best guesses in November. ASD provided projected enrollment numbers. This is how order was created. We will be using digital resources for many items for teachers; more bang for our buck.

Teacher materials roll out this spring; student materials in the fall. SPED not delivering the core program; supporting the core program. Each teacher gets a TE. Amy went through details that are on the inventory sheet.

Each comprehensive middle school, Polaris, NL ABC, Girdwood getting a scantron machine for the testing system.

Decided to have at least one set of print materials per grade level in one location in your building. Library> Or in the copy room for last minute copies?

All of these materials being truck transferred to buildings in next few days. bar codes will be useful with Zangle next year; need to be creative for now. Most of the time students will use at home.

Ideas for use of the bar codes and check out system ideas ere discussed.

Surplus old materials. Think of ways to send obsolete materials into the community. Discussion re: which books to surplus. Make sure the charter schools have a chance to respond and receive these. When ready to let go, stamp obsolete, make them a part of the giveaway in the Spring. Finally, they will be boxed and trucked away.

Cary Barter wonders if there is a way for these books to be sent to districts or places state or nation-wide that need materials. Amy asked the warehouse and they implied that it goes to some sort of system in the lower 48 where the materials get sent to underprivileged areas. Cary heard they get shredded. Mardell and Amy will check into it.

Next steps: be sure teacher materials get labeled and packaged in some way. Amy would like to do a little training on Write Smart CD and help get materials labeled and passed out to teachers.

Staffing changes for next year were brought up. Things are really up in the air. Many people may be shifted. Lisa (Central) recommended that you treat teachers as if everyone was going to be there. It would make everyone feel comforted. An opportunity for leadership for this committee.

Trade books. Amy wants to hold off on this issue until the textbook situation is taken care of. This will be the last step of the process; look at the spreadsheet, weed if needed, etc.

Half day training in April with cohorts.

Possible summer class this summer at ASDSA.

August 14 cross-district at Wendler.

- ▶ • Teacher's Choice Books - Readers Needed - (Mardell & Tony)

Tony has some books for you to read...needs a few more reads on some of them.

- ▶ • Curriculum Guide Refresh with Mardell Kiesel

Mardell passed out a sheet with info regarding the curriculum guide refresh teams and work dates, and invites anyone interested in the process to join. Please check with your staff.

## **New Business**

- ▶ ELL Curriculum - Beth Hartley, MS ELL Specialist

Initially they were going to modify the existing LA curriculum. Ended up and modifying for Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced ELLs. Document has: ELP standards; GLEs as they apply to the student development levels; formative assessments, GRASPs, Learning Activities, Resources, which will include McDL. Leveled their program texts as well. Helpful for ELL teachers and classroom teachers. A supplement. A resource if you have many ELLS in your class. Will let you know when they need feedback and external input, perhaps via a google Document.

- ▶ ASD Summer Academy

Class related to the new McDougal Littell and the curriculum guide and merging them. Loosely structured.

- ▶ Curriculum Camp

Tabled for the time being; Mardell does not know where will be in this process. Will re-assess at end of the year.

- ▶ Online tools issue

Lisa Zelenkov: Trying to create a best practices guide for the use of web 2.0 tools. principals are trying to work to understand the best way to use Web 2.0 tools. Make sure principal knows what web 2.0 tools you are using. (Checklist is available for this.) Internet committee working rapidly to define best practices, guidelines, and boundaries for everyone's protection.

## In the Folder

- Minutes (December 9, 2008)
- McDougal Littell Literature (Catalog pages)
- Site Inventory
- McDougal Littell Timeline
- ASD Policy for Disposal of Textbooks

**Announcements... Next MSLACC April 14, 2009**

**DRAFT**