

Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

April 14, 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

Catching up With Colleagues

Call to Order 3:48 PM

- Admit Slip: How many books does your school need for each team to have a team set per title? *Each school was asked to provide the necessary numbers to create team sets of required titles.*

Introductions *Shirley Mickelson (in place of Marcie Indahl, Kathy Clauson (for Refresh of Curriculum)*

Agenda Approval *Approved*

Minutes Approval (February 11, 2009) *Approved with minor corrections Moved by Diana Daniels, Seconded by Art LaRue)*

Reports: (1-2 minutes)

- ELL Update - Beth Hartley *Beth has been working with the curriculum refresh. Beth is excited that the curriculum guide is "friendly" to ELL. They will probably still have a separate document, but the format will be quite similar.*
- Gifted Education - Brenda Fenton *Brenda has also been involved in the curriculum refresh. The aim for gifted education is to integrate the needs of gifted students into the guide rather than in a separate document.*

Continuing Business

4 Curriculum Guide Refresh with the Committee *The idea is for the department chairs to go back to their buildings and "sell" the first wave of curriculum implementation! The message should be that the guide is the **backbone** for the curriculum. Ideally at least Unit One in draft form should be ready for the upcoming Cohort training.*

A major change for page one of the guides is the addition on page one of Assessments (Diagnostic, Formative, Summative). Also the enduring understandings and essential questions have been streamlined, and will only appear on the first page.

Each unit will have a reading focus, writing focus, grammar focus, vocabulary focus, and media focus. Each focus will have a list of terms. All selections are leveled as easy(E), average (A), and challenging (C).

There has been intentional vertical teaming built into the 6-8 guides. While there are no specific spelling lists, the vocabulary aligns perfectly with our guides; teachers may work spelling in with this as well.

8th grade's biggest change has been to move from 6 units to 4. The style will be the same as every other grade.

4 Cohort Training - Amy Goodman *While no budget decisions have been finalized, tentative dates for next year's training will be the weeks of Sept. 28, Nov. 16, Feb. 8. Please start thinking about what would be useful trainings for next year. Also, encourage attendance for the entire session.*

4 Book Room Surplus ...or Not - Mardell & Amy *The district contracts with a "recycler." Bottom line, they go to a dump in MT. We have attempted to see if some books can be donated to AK communities that are in need. At this point, only the old textbooks have been okayed to surplus. If other ideas for getting rid of these materials occur, please contact Mardell.*

New Business

4 ASD Summer Academy *Make copies of the ASD LA Professional Development Summer classes for department members.*

4 Curriculum Camp *Later...*

4 Every Student is My Student! (August 14, '09) *All Middle School and High School teachers together. Currently this is scheduled for Bartlett High.*

In the Folder

- Minutes (Feb. 11, 2009)
- Article" Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers - VOYA, 2/09
- Professional Development Opportunities (Please distribute)
- **Announcements...**

For the good of the order.....

Adjourned 5:17 PM