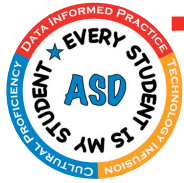


Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

September 15, 2009 ASD Ed Center: Board Room 3:45-5:15 PM



Beginnings

- Hydrate & Say Hello...
- Call to Order 3:52 PM

Introductions:

- New Positions: Stacy Miller, Ed Tech; Mary Richards, SS/LA Integration Support

Agenda Approval

- Marcie Indahl moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Michelle Foss

Minutes Approval (April 14, 2009)

- Janene Schoenborn moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Michelle Foss

Reports (MS LA Support, ELL, SPED, Gifted, Library, EdTech, MS Administration, Other?)

- ELL* – A draft of a curriculum guide reflecting ELL accommodations should be available at the next meeting.
- SpEd* - There will be a new representative Lesa Walker; this was just announced yesterday
- Gifted* – Remind teachers that there is a gifted strand added to the curriculum guide and to realize there are often students in classrooms that don't meet "gifted" guidelines but who will benefit from curriculum that pushes them academically.
- Ed Tech* – There is a teacher training request form on the Ed Tech site. Requests for technology related training can be via this form.
- MS Administration* – Be sure the principals know what you need and have it ready for them to order. This is a good time to let them know what novels you may need to meet your curriculum needs.
- MS/LA* –
 - Reading intervention materials are now going to be ordered through the schools rather than Amy. This will come out of LA funds, starting next year. There was a lengthy conversation about this course, how it is funded and taught, and whether materials currently available are enough: changing demographics were mentioned. **Martina will be looking for inventory information to start with.** A review of the Reading Intervention curriculum and needs will be started this year.
 - The Grammar for Writing workbooks can be used as copy masters. Possibly consider pooling workbooks not needed (After pulling out some extras for future needs) and using them as a consumable at one or two schools so they do not take space on shelves. **Contact Martina or Amy if you might want to use workbooks as a consumable this year.**
 - Damaged textbooks? **Please let Amy know if there are damaged books. She will send an email asking for this information, and will give directions for what to do at that time.**
 - Amy has some Reading Fluency Readers up for grabs; quantities are limited, so speak up quickly.

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- Be sure teachers are getting students enrolled on to their online textbooks; many have not been enrolled.
- Please include SpEd collaborators with LA curriculum guides.
- Cohort schedule - please make sure any changes are noted. **Sign off to ensure that the list of teachers is correct.**

Continuing Business

- iPod Integration Project* (Doreen Brown and Josephine Edwards-Vollertsen, Indian Ed)
 - There are three of these carts in the District (First checkout will be to Begich, Clark, and Goldenview). A sign up sheet was passed around for teacher to indicate interest in accessing the ipod content in some other form, such as on ASD Tube or vis DVD. It would be great to see more funded through schools, PTAs, etc. It is important that these are used to fulfill the Alaskan Native cultural standards for the state. Stephanie Timmerman has updated her curriculum for Two Old Women to reflect the use of this technology. A book tub will accompany the carts including a classroom set of the novel and accompanying literary pieces. Indian Ed is looking for ideas for other novels that can be adapted to build in iPod content (movies, songs, interviews, etc.) and allow the carts to be more fully utilized; also looking for teachers interested in helping design these resources. **Contact Josephine Edwards-Vollertsen if you are interested.**
- Core Novel Expansion* (Leslie Vandergaw, Martina Henke)
 - This year we would like to pursue an expansion of our core novel lists. There is some money available through mid-level funding to do this. Leslie Vandergaw asked: are the novels we have selected reaching our target population? Do we need to update based on readability, a need for differentiation and cultural diversity, versus one-size fits all? This should be a time of critical reflection and review of the choices we offer in our curriculum. We need to ground ourselves in research, have conversations to identify what our students' and teachers' needs are. Leslie asks us to look beyond individual classrooms and to look for balance: we must deal with our high transiency and need of consistency, but also honor creativity and choice: we must blend these. This review process will be part of the cohort trainings so that these conversations can reach a broader audience, and we will also pull together an ad hoc committee to work on devising a list of novels that can expand our core novel offerings in the curriculum guide.
 - Some issues to consider... Do we let the demographics of the curriculum committee drive selection or do we really focus on the demographics of the student body? Do we need to have the same resources at each school or can they differ based on the populations? We need to remember all the students, both ends of the spectrum, as well as the middle. Books need to be both "windows" and "mirrors" – so students see themselves and others in books. How do we adhere to the issues of transient nature of this district vs. curricular freedoms/choices?

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•*Gates MacGinitie*: time to collect from sites? **Martina will generate a list of directions for this and send it out.**

•*Bookroom Surplus*

•Can we make some decisions for surplus these books? We will attempt to set and distribute a protocol for getting rid of these books. We do not want to get rid of everything yet, in light of the expansion of our core list, but there are many that can be surplus. Possibly absorb into classroom teachers' libraries?

New Business

•*MY Access expansion*

• MY Access! has been in pilot status for two years. This program has been unanimously requested by principals, and there has been a waiting list for the program. Stimulus money became available; part of this money had to be used for technology expansion. Rather than a scatterplot of students using the program, the decision was made to implement at 7th and 9th grades. Training is happening as quickly as possible. Other stimulus funds will be used to supplement technology through the purchase of netbooks. A credit support class is being offered as well. All teachers using the program will be welcome to attend the support class, even if not receiving credit for the class.

In the Folder

- Agenda
- Minutes (April 14)
- Letters About Literature
- Grant Opportunities
- Article: *Online Writing Tool Boosts Test Scores*
- MY Access Support Class Flyer

For the Good of the Order/Further Announcements...

•Professional books housed in Lang Arts department are being inventoried and will be listed in an online format so that teachers can see what books they can check out to enhance their professional growth. More info will be available soon.

Next Meeting: October 13 (Location?):

NOTE: There are currently no open rooms at the ASD ED Center for this meeting. Looking for a possible location at a school?

Adjourned 5:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Diana Daniels & Martina Henke