

Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Committee

December 9, 2004

Location: Conference Room, 6th & K

3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

3:45 PM Refreshments and Catching Up With Colleagues! 4

Agenda Approval

4 Introductions and welcoming of guests

4 Current and Future Business

Past and Current Business:

4 **LA Online!**

4 Supplementary Book Review Process

4 LA Gifted Education ...Brenda Fenton

4 **High Five Reading Strategies...Amy Goodman**

4 NCTE and Librarian Liaison...Suzanne Metcalfe

4Administrative Report: Michael Perkins and/or John Gaskins

4Site Shares and Questions:

4Announcements and Open Agenda

5:15 PM ? Adjournment

Middle School & High School
Language Arts Curriculum Committee

Facilitator: Mardell Kiesel, Coordinator

December 9, 2004

Location: Conference Room 6th & K

Time: 4:00-5:30PM

Present at Meeting:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Lisa Peckham | Mears | |
| Tracy Stanley | Central | |
| Marcia Indahl | Hanshew | |
| Amy Goodman | MS Lit Support | |
| Janene Schoenborn | Wendler | |
| Judy Onslow | Girdwood | |
| Michelle Foss | Gruening | |
| Vicki Patterson | Clark | |
| May Smith | Mirror Lake | |
| Diana Daniels | Goldenview | |
| Beth Hartley | BMEP | |
| Brenda Fenton | Gifted Ed | |
| Linda Richardson | Spec Ed | |
| Suzanne Metcalfe | MS Librarian | |
| Excused | Michael Perkins | MS Administration Rep |
| | Sidnie Seaward | Romig |

- **Agenda Approval** The agenda was approved as written.

- **Current Business:** Information was brought to the MSLACC about the developing web site, *LA Online!* Currently, the photo directory of department chairs is incomplete and in some instances, inaccurate. Mardell asked if each department chair would review the site and with site administrator, approve information that is shared. Input is requested and should be sent to Mardell.

- Brenda Fenton, Gifted Ed Teacher Specialist, shared upcoming events of interest with teachers. She also discussed the need to negotiate titles that have been used for gifted language arts classes and which also may be on approved high school reading lists. The process for determining titles and using Gifted Ed budget was

briefly discussed. Most Members of the MSLACC are in agreement that more discussion is needed to sort titles and reach agreements with feeder high schools.

- Suzanne Metcalfe, Mears librarian, shared experiences from the NCTE Conference in Indianapolis. She presented at the Middle School Mosaic, always a packed session! She shared the reading list for adolescents recommended by Teri Lesesne.

- **Supplementary Book Review:** Mardell will review and possibly revise the outdated form used to recommend books for approval. Stressed in this discussion was the need to be culturally responsive as a reviewer.

Update from Amy Goodman: Middle School Literacy Support Specialist

A discussion was held about the most efficient process for approving the 148 Bridges to Literature trade books. Amy had a master list of titles cross-referenced by the nine middle schools. She prepared tentative assigned reading lists whereby duplicate titles were eliminated reducing the number of books any one school would have to read except for Hanshew and Mirror Lake. It was hoped that Hanshew would collaborate with APU in this process, but it was decided that the 2-reader process should involve only experienced staff. Suzanne Metcalfe suggested that the midlevel librarians might be able to help in lieu of the APU students. Content area teachers, elective teachers, and administrators can all be part of the reading process. Amy will re-evaluate the assigned reading lists for each school and email out an update.

Mirror Lake's trade book list represents 66 titles but only 2-3 copies of each. Mirror Lake will need to decide whether their books will be used as independent or assigned reading. If the titles are to be used as assigned instruction, then they will complete the 2-reader process on those titles.

Mardell agreed to email a revised supplemental book process form to department chairs before winter break. A discussion was also held about the importance of recognizing social fairness in literature and heightening the awareness of all staff.

Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge

Amy distributed information on the Reader's Digest vocabulary contest. This is only the 4th year of the contest so limited statewide information is available. Alaska has

participated in the past. Bookmarks and flyers were distributed. More information can be located at <http://www.rd.com/nwpc>.

Supplemental Writing Materials

Amy passed out a hard copy of an inventory sheet that should be given to every LA teacher describing the materials, their purpose, and their cost. This list includes: Write Source 2000, Step Up to Writing, Sentence Composing, and Write Traits kits. The Inside Writing kits are also part of this inventory; however, they are considered a department resource to be shared by everyone.

Middle School High Five

Amy showed a Power Point overview of the High Five and asked for feedback. This Power Point presentation will be sent to each department chair so it can be used in staff awareness meetings during the week of January 3. Amy briefly went through each reading strategy using a passage from The History of US by Joy Hakim. The article she used was information about Eskimos. It was suggested that the passage could additionally be used to discuss social fairness issues. Various ways to inform staff of the strategies were suggested. An easy method is for the LA department chair to model the strategies with the LA teachers, and in turn the LA teachers can model the strategies during team meetings. Elective teachers can sit in on these meetings, too. Extra High Five layered booklets were available to ensure that every school had enough materials in order to get started right after the winter break.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mardell Kiesel and Amy Goodman