

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA
SCIENCE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: November 19, 2008

Time: 4:00-6:00 P.M.

Place: ASD Ed Center Orange Rm.

WELCOME/ Approval of Minutes

In Attendance - Absent

Bartlett	Brian Foss	Begich	<u>Scott Kluever</u>
Chugiak	<u>Andy Sullivan</u>	Central	<u>Scott Shumway</u>
Dimond	<u>Jeff Keller</u>	Goldenview	<u>Dave Avery</u>
Eagle River	Mark VanArsdale	Gruening	<u>Cally Leader</u>
East	<u>Lisa Mitchell</u>	Hanshaw	Sue Tifental / <u>Konrad Mittelstadt</u>
Service	<u>Brian Waite</u>	Mears	<u>Wade Hughes</u>
South	Leesa Wingo	Mirror Lake	<u>Joe Kenney</u>
West	<u>Brian Goudreau</u>	Romig	<u>Shari Durocher</u>
		Wendler	Jack Hepler
Polaris	<u>Kathryn Smith</u>		
NL K-8	<u>Carole McKee</u>		
Gifted	Brenda Fenton	Whaley	Daphne Matz
Spec Ed	Jane Quinn	Crossroads	
B. Benson	Sandra Senior / <u>Michael Anderson</u>		
Ed Tech	Jan Thompson	Student Rep	<u>Kenny Hubbell</u>
McLaughlin	Colette Roth (e ?)	Girdwood	Dave Robinson
CIS	<u>Trisha Herminghaus</u>	Principal	Julie Makar
CIS	Judy Onslow (e)		

Meeting called to order by Texas Gail Raymond at 4:05pm. Callie moved to approve the minutes. Minutes were read and unanimously approved as written.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Science Notebooks**

Science Notebook Orders: Schools should have received boxes and science departments should have them if not the school may have them without a name. Boxes are white 18 inches long 12 inches wide. If you can't find them let Judy Onslow know. There are also about 5000 graph paper science notebooks, if you want these, contact Judy.

- **Elementary Science Update**

Elementary Report: This is the free choice quarter for middle school. The elementary teachers are working on the "face plates" - standards based reporting system. Working with the pilot test teachers to address problems and issues - looking at rolling it out district wide in a year and a half. Target date for Elementary to be on Standards Based Reporting is 11-12 school year and 12-13 for middle school. Connection to Zangle and the ramifications for middle and high school were discussed.

- **Student Report**

Kenny, a student from South, described how he went past chemistry into AP Chem. He went to John Hopkins summer chemistry program and so this school year he went into AP chem. In conversations with other students, they find chemistry repetitive, especially students who get the material the first time around and then wait for the rest of the class to get it. Students have encountered counselors (some) who say no skipping chem. and going to AP Chem. He is interested in why those barriers are in place.

Lisa Mitchell from East has had success with the few sophomores who are ready for AP by giving them materials over the summer. The suggestion was made that a student should take the Chemistry 1 final before getting the green light to go ahead. The suggestion was made that science departments and counselors communicate to be clear on the exceptions for, and expectations of, students. Brian Goudreau thinks the reasons schools handle admissions to higher courses differently might stem from their AP courses being taught differently. Wade? suggested the same issues applied to students moving from 8th to 9th and entering Biology. Lisa (East) is having all students take an IS-9 pretest, both IS-9 students and Biology students, and then correlating numbers to accumulate data about which students are successful or not to show students and parents. An East High teacher is taking SBA scores and tracking what courses students have taken to see how achievement correlates to course.

A discussion was held as to the variety of ways schools prep and ID students for AP Chemistry, the basics of IS 9, and the general class scheduling and advising done in each school. The question was asked about the science test and whether it counts towards AYP. Gail informed everyone that the results of the state science test are recorded on students' transcripts and go to colleges.

- **Grade Book / ZANGLE**

Next year's Grade books will be on Zangle and instead of a cross district training, there will be a Zangle training. Discussion followed about how the Zangle system will be linked to GLE's, how different teachers grade differently and how they will allow for the teachable moments, etc.

- **SEL**

Discussion on how much social emotional learning is happening in the schools and whether it is reaching science teachers. Shari is on a committee at her school and it is in the beginning stages. Some schools are using the 40 assets and AV&B trainings, the idea of the program is to bring together these disparate programs. Gail believes the program

is excellent and has applications for classroom instruction. Teachers will be giving "effort" type grades.

- **IS-9 Recovery Class**

IS-9 Recovery class through APEX is in the works and someone will be coming to talk to SCCM about it. This course could be used for students that skip IS- 9 and go to Biology.

- **SeaPerch Training**

Feb 2-3 is Seaperch training. The flyer will be coming out. Training is for MS and HS, there is a limit for number of participants.

- **October 21 Science Curriculum Conversation** cancelled and subs went to SBAR work.

- **Hazardous Material**

Hazardous Material set up a pick up for the end of the year. Info Gail needs: name of chemical, quantity, where it is located, and a contact name and number. If needed Gail can come to schools to help with disposal.

- **Public Folders / Surplus Materials**

Under "all public folder" in "announcements" under "surplus items" You can post surplus items. All surplus items are listed by email - it goes into this folder. If you reply into the folder everyone can read it so reply personally to the individual. When you click on the folder you may need to select "get entire message".

There is also a public folder for Science and the most recent information.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secondary Curriculum Conversations

Curriculum Conversations for November has been cancelled

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Get Outdoors Anchorage!

Jim Adams from the National Wildlife Anchorage came to ask for the help of the teachers in Anchorage School District. **National Wildlife Federation, Anchorage:** Jim Adams Director, 339-3902 adamsj@nwf.org Jim is working with FWS, State Div Health, AK Wilderness & Recreation & Tourism and Mayor's Office to host a conference December 10-11th at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center to get kids outside. Social attitudes have changed about how/where children can go and why children today spend less time outside. Students that don't spend time in natural spaces, don't develop an ethic for caring for those spaces. Goals of conference 1) get kids outdoors, 2) networking for groups that do try to get kids outdoors, 3) what kind of policy changes could we make to help get kids outdoors. Attending the conference for ASD, Gail Raymond bringing MS science teacher, high school

teacher, a PE person from the district, conservation non-profits, urban organizations YMCA etc, doctors pediatricians, municipality, etc.

Question to group: What are the barriers to getting kids outdoors.

- money and busing issues to get kids places - some places buses won't go due to the location/turn arounds, etc., school district won't let parents drive beyond the borders of the school district, sport events take precedence over classroom field trips.
- safety issues (concern about homeless in green-spaces).
- Time limits of non-blocked time.
- Increasing difficulty to motivate kids and have them remember proper gear.

Ideas to help get kids outdoors:

- Konrad suggested elementary kids need 2nd recess. Discussion about this to some degree being a school based decision. Tricia said with all the pullouts and curriculum needs at elementary the school day isn't long enough, suggested lengthening the school day.
- Middle school needs PE programs that get kids outdoors,
- All buildings should have 5% of land for outdoor classroom, example from Mears of greenbelt getting turned into a parking lot.
- Lowering class sizes!!
- City using school locations to locate open space property and develop safe trails between schools and green-spaces -
- CCSC - model where the programs are set up and adults are available to help. PWS Tours with science lessons attached - good program. CACS - Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. - good program.
- Goldenview PE department covers lunch (addendum) - and they take students outside during lunch. adamsj@nwf.org 339-3902
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B. Anchorage Waterways Council

- unable to attend

C. Web 2.0

Gail shared information on the Public Folders, Web 2.0 survey results, 166 people responded to the pre-assessment, Gail used the Concerns Based Adoption Model to create the questions. "Web 2.0 is a "read and write" / collaborative use of the web because it allows more than one individual to interact at a given site.." Reduces many of the barriers to communicating with other educators or finding interesting way to work with students.

For a future meeting Gail will be bringing information about a curriculum wiki. Gail shared a wiki video from Teacher Tube. Lee Lefever has a series of videos that explain different web 2.0 tools.

D. Meeting Configurations:

There has been a request that middle school and high school science curriculum meet separately. Meeting agendas have traditionally been built on 7-12 topics. Suggestions /ideas included:

- a. Once a year K-12 to get the K-12 science coordination .
- b. A MS specific meeting could focus on the curriculum, what is being taught and what works- updating the curriculum guides.

No definitive decision made?

E. Department Meetings:

Gail is trying to meet with every department. To discuss the test and meet the science teachers. If she has not been to your building let her know when your next meeting is.

F. Various Class Flyers

- Get Outdoors Anchorage!
- Survey results

V. ADJOURNMENT Meeting Adjourned 5:30 p.m.

Tentative Meeting Schedule 2008/2009

Wednesday, 1/21/09 - 4-6pm - Orange Rm

Wednesday, 2/18/09 - 4-6pm - Blue Rm

Wednesday, 4/15/09 - 4-6pm - Blue Rm

Wednesday, 5/6/09 - 4-6pm - Orange Rm