

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 9th, 2013

In Attendance: Lisa Papke, Tony Edwards, Pierre Habel, Keith Beams, Linda Choun, Priscilla Flanders, Mark Flora.

Absent: Leonard Dinegar.

Observers: Monique Helfer entered the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda: Agenda was approved.

Public Commentary: None.

Minutes: Minutes from the December 2nd meeting were approved.

AP Physics C: (attachments #2 and #3*)

- Briant McKellips had previously submitted CD-02/03 paperwork and fielded S/C's questions/clarified information about the AP Physics C proposal.
- S/C requested Briant consider writing an article for the Jag Tracks to assure our community understands the background for the change from AP Physics B to AP Physics C, specifically clarifying that AP Physics B is being eliminated in all schools as a result of changes made by the College Board.
- Briant elaborated as to why AP Physics C can't be a replacement course. The standard course is a survey that includes multiple topics, whereas Physics C focuses on only two topics: mechanics and electromagnetism.
- Physics C allows the instructor some flexibility with respect to lab selection. Briant is in the process of researching options, some of which will depend on course demand. Depending on what is determined, some start-up money may be requested from DEF.
- An excellent book has been identified - buying the book new from the publisher would cost \$195.00; students can find it used on Amazon for as low as \$135. S/C determined that book cost information should be added to the policy form. **Action: Policy Committee**
- S/C approved the new course

Personal Financial Literacy (PFL): (attachment #4*)

- Social Studies teacher Monte Murphy presented work done by SS teachers regarding PFL standards. After review, 11th grade teachers are confident they can incorporate PFL standards during final exam review. Students have been regularly introduced to the concepts represented in the standards throughout the year, but historically these concepts have not been link to corresponding economic terms.
- Teachers will begin integrating the PFL terminology in conjunction the concepts so students can become more familiar with PFL language prior to review the final exam review.

Final

- During the spring of next year SS teachers will review the results of 12th grade test and determine if any adjustments need to be made. **Action: Continuity Log**

English (attachments #5 and #5a*)

- Jennifer Tompkins and Kelley Young presented detailed rationales for the department's proposed changes. The department has been considering these changes for years as it relates to possible improvements in student learning.
- Summer reading books are meant to be independently read during the summer. The school year begins with a writing assignment; however, teachers feel that some of the readings are too difficult and they do not have time to go over the readings in depth and students don't achieve full accessibility to some of the current readings.
- Junior High proposal: Move *The Yearling* (8th grade summer reading) to the 7th grade curriculum, replacing *The Good Earth* during the school year. *Lord of the Flies* would be added as 8th grade summer reading.
- Senior High (9th grade) proposal: Move *Siddartha* from summer reading into the school year, and move *A Separate Peace* and *Old Man and the Sea* to summer readings.
- Senior High (9th grade) proposal: Replace *O Pioneers!* with *My Antonia* (both by the same author) and read *My Antonia* during the school year.
- Senior High (9th grade) proposal: Remove the short story unit (4 stories) as a whole, and focus on teaching the unit's concepts through the summer readings. The short stories will be kept to teach individually through the school year.
- Curricular change documents will be completed, and a curricular review committee will be formed. **Action: S/C representatives will be Tony, Keith, and Linda.**
- Per policy, all S/C members will read *Lord of the Flies* and *My Antonia* so they can make an informed decision on whether or not these books should be added to the curriculum. **ACTION:S/C**
- It will be noted in the Course Planning Guide that readings are currently under review, with a target date no later than spring break. **ACTION: TONY**
- Discussion: propose that A/C considers development of a program that would promote reading within the family to more effectively engage students with both summer and school year reading. **Action: Continuity Log**

Principal's Report:

- Ideally, the Spanish position will be filled before winter break. After thoughtful consideration, collaboration and reassignment of teachers/classes, the open position will be for Spanish I. In order to accommodate this, Paige Stevenson will take over Ms. Tirado's Spanish III classes and Olivia Bridges will take over the AP Spanish classes. S/C expressed their appreciation to all involved for their herculean efforts to successfully schedule and deliver this solution.
- Jen Biegen will go on maternity leave in March which will require a long term sub.
- D'Evelyn received the John Irwin award again, based on (top 8%) state TCAP and ACT assessments.
- The final exam schedule will follow the same format as previous years.

AP Macroeconomics (attachment #6*)

Final

- Josh Griffin informed S/C that a supplemental book is included with the AP text book that was selected last year. After review, Josh would like to incorporate it into his syllabus.
- All S/C members will review the supplementary book and advise Josh of their decision ASAP. **Action: S/C will complete by 12/19/13.**
- Josh noted that the AP Macroeconomics textbook should be considered as a replacement for the standard Economics class when it is up for review in 2015. **ACTION: S/C Continuity Log**
- Josh worked with Bev and agreed that this is a full year class (AP Government plus AP Macroeconomics), with no option to take just one semester. This will be made clear in the Course Planning Guide. **ACTION: TONY**

Course Planning Guide (attachment #7*)

- Due to the new CW II class, it will be clarified that Creative Writing I will only be offered as a onetime class.
- Additionally, wording will be added to clarify that honors courses are being phased out, dates will be provided for each course.
- S/C members will send edits to Tony no later than Wednesday evening. **ACTION: S/C**
- Discussed adding textbook ISBN numbers to course planning guide, but determined it would be more efficient for parents/students to have a list that could be provided in conjunction with the school supply list **Action: Tony**

Public commentary: None.

Steering Committee Candidate Annotated Reading List (attachment #8*)

- S/C agreed that with the exception of the ECIS policy planner information, the other items would be a useful addendum to our policy and packets.
- S/C will incorporate explanations of the current readings where appropriate and schedule a discussion about the ECIS independent school planner for a future agenda. **Action Item/Continuity log: S/C Policy Committee**

Sub-committee Updates: No new updates.

Continuity Log Review (attachment #9*)

- S/C reviewed which tasks have been completed.

Principal Hiring Committee: (Tony excused at 6:10 p.m.)

- The principal hiring committee has been formed: Briant McKellips, Lisa Porter, Amy Davis (A/C), Jan Skelton, Bev Haynie, Maureen Curtis (Dennison), Dan Cohan (non-voting), Pierre Habel, Keith Beams, Lisa Papke, Priscilla Flanders, and Leonard Dinegar.
- Lisa forwarded the finalized job description to Dan last week.
- Paper screenings targeted to be complete by the end of January. Lisa will draft a final email asking the hiring committee to review all the policies. The hiring committee will participate in constructing the questions.

Final

*Hard copies of **attachments** are available in the library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 13th, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted: Aimee Pless, Note Taker and Priscilla Flanders, Secretary