

Curriculum Forum Overview
Jamie Adams, Director of Curriculum
May 28, 2008

The first item on the agenda was the high school math textbook adoption. Two books have been on display for the 30 day public review and I have received no comments. I will plan to take the *Algebra I* and *Math Analysis* books to the School Board for approval on June 10th.

The main topic for the meeting was the Curriculum Review Process for the Language Arts adoption, scheduled to start in the Fall of 2009. We spent some time looking at the language of the document and the layout of the timeframe. A final draft will go out at the start of the school year.

The important conversation at the meeting was about the changes we have made to the process and how we might improve public input to make the process a collaborative working group of parents, teachers, administrators and School Board members.

It was agreed that Site Councils are a very good venue for site conversations about curriculum; however, there is still a learning curve on how to have these conversations there.

It was brought up that we needed a group that would commit to curriculum meetings. Parents would sign on to attend the meetings and then report back to Parents' Clubs and Site Councils. Teachers and administrators would be selected to represent the professionals and they too would be reporting back to their constituents. The question was asked: How would that group be different from the Curriculum Forum? We all agreed the intent of the Curriculum Forum was to create that type of team, but it seems to not have evolved into this model. Teachers at the meeting agreed that the Forum meetings became more of a dog-and-pony show. Parents at the meeting felt like they really didn't have an opportunity to have conversations; rather, they felt like they were just asking questions about the presentations and were peripheral to the process. Everyone wants to find a way to have these important conversations.

The group brainstormed as to where we might adjust the process in order to help people show up and be productive. One idea that seemed to resonate with the group was to have a Back-to-Language Arts-Night to kick off the 2009-10 year. We discussed whether or not it would be a K-12 evening or a site evening. There was also a discussion as to what would happen after the "kick-off" meeting. Would we have a prepared survey for participants or a question-and-answer session by handing out index cards for parents to write their questions and the professionals respond?

We ended the meeting with parents giving any last thoughts for the administrators to think about when planning for next year's process. Rubrics were passed out which showed different ways for teachers to organize the information when analyzing textbooks. Teachers will be able to look at these three rubrics and then guide me in the development of the final rubric for the Language Arts adoption.

The meeting ended at 5:00PM.