

Curriculum Forum Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting of February 22nd, 2010

This was the first meeting of the newly formed Curriculum Forum Committee. The committee is comprised of parents appointed by each site council, teachers, administrators, board members, and students.

Agreed upon norms for working together:

1. Each member will contribute.
2. We will listen to one another.
3. Use conversational courtesy.
4. Respect the value of all ideas and points of view.
5. Humor is welcome (not at the expense of others).
6. We will start and end on time.
7. Avoid editorials.
8. Strive to be and make others comfortable.
9. Assume best intentions.
10. Turn off cell phones.

Brainstorm Activity:

What English Language Arts program and curriculum topics would the Curriculum Forum like to inquire about in the coming year?

1. Are segments of the population underserved?
2. Are certain years/transition yrs. higher in dissatisfaction.
3. Investigate effective ways to edit?
4. How do students feel post graduation?
5. Survey “outside” support.
6. Describing the thought process behind teacher created assessment tools – how we communicate them, use them, and why?
7. How to communicate ELA practices with the community?
8. Where should my child be in ___ grade?
9. How to balance individual teacher/classroom needs vs. need for consistency?
10. Introduce more “tracking” pathways earlier.
11. Ways to have continuity, assessment, and articulation k-12 over time including for all kids.
12. Teacher feedback on writing.
13. What is the approach to teaching writing?
14. Ways to celebrate language arts.
15. Exploring more standardization and consistency in teaching reading.
16. Ways to encourage parents to talk more with teachers – open doors.

17. Look at the link between increasing reading opportunities and improved test scores.
18. How to help students see parents reading?
19. How to increase active parent involvement/interest in school day?
20. How would community feel about posting of student work on-line?
21. What does progression/articulation look like 5/6, 9/10, 12/post-secondary?
22. Look at post secondary assessments to determine constellation of measures.
23. Explore adding more elective English choices.