

Academic Choice Advisory Council Minutes for 10/6/2006 Meeting

Present: Amy Frey, Pascuale Scuderi, Alejandro Ramos, David Bye, Alex Angel, Corey Nakamoto (counselor representative), Kaitlin Morrisey, Amelia Starr, Jessie Seaton, Jane Wise, Janet Delaney, Chris Gilbert.

Next Meeting: November 2, 7:15 am.

Grade Reports:

12th grade report from David Bye on the Senior Seminar Project. This will be required for an Academic Choice Certificate. There was mention of tying this in with an Urban Planning Project. Bye also presented the senior AC (non-AP) course: "Reading & Writing the Short Story". There was mention of the importance of having colleges and students value the AC certificate.

9th grade report from Sharene Randall, presented by Alan Miller. See attachment.

9th grade comments by Alex Angell. It's a challenge getting 9th graders to work with complex themes of the textbook. Ben is using a special web site for interactive teaching. Alex is interested in learning about it. Three of the 9th grade teachers meet regularly to coordinate. Two others work independently.

10th and 11th grade teacher reps not present.

Replacement Teacher:

Status of replacement teacher was discussed. Current tactic is to look on CraigsList which has produced several possibilities.

Teacher Retreat:

AC teacher coordinator was unable to make it. Others were unsure of what would be conducted there and/or if they could come. Discussion ended with the possibility of postponing the retreat.

UC Readers for upper grade English classes:

Doug talked about where the process was. UC is asking students to come on the UC campus. (?)

9th Grade English Student Tracking (Data):

Chris said that he only had data from one 9th grade English class. Amy said that the school had the data and were analyzing it.

AC Designation for Report Cards & Transcripts:

AC Certification will be on both. Paper Certificate will be handed out. Senior seminar project must be done in order to get this certification.

Mentoring of New Teachers:

There was some discussion about Doug mentoring Matt Meyer.

AP Pathways: Have tutor but no coordinator. Situation is unproductive. Ask Karen Meryash to coordinate tutor. Alex asked how the AC tutor ties in with District resources. It was decided to cover this in the Retreat.

Attachment, submitted by Alan Miller for Sharlene Randall:

Freshman Academic Choice Report

What we are up to:

We meet weekly to discuss curriculum and plan together.

We are currently finishing up a short story unit.

Each freshman class has completed 1-3 academic writing pieces.

Our focus for this year is on academic literacy and academic writing, increasing rigor and getting support for struggling readers and other students with special needs.

Will meet Monday to plan to look at data and use results to structure curriculum.

Ordered copies of *The Alchemist* and *Kitchen* will work together to create novel units for 9 AC.

Still need to know what topics to cover for Social Living Unit in order to divided between AC English and AC History core partners.

Eagerly anticipating the AC Frosh Potluck on October 25!

Coming up: *(subject to Madalyn, Samantha, and Matt's approval)*

Will create common assessments to examine trends in AC students Academic Lit. and Academic Writing skills. (With implications for re-teaching)

Will design an Academic Literacy and Academic Writing program for 9th and 10th. (To teach common strategies, outcomes and skill sets, with differentiation of course)

Professional Study Group. (Focus yet to be determined, part of school wide professional development model)

Best Practices at AC meetings