

Academics Meeting
Tentative Agenda
September 9, 2019
Room 5C at 8:00 A.M.

Members in Attendance: John G, Cheri, Noah, Jen, Maggie, Kassie, Hannah, Angie, Wendell, Joell, Teresa, Lisa, Shannon F

1. Appoint new Chair (Lisa)

Lisa will remain Chair.

2. Appoint new Notetaker (Lisa)

Maggie will remain Notetaker.

3. Supplemental Online Learning

We need an online learning policy per MN Statute 124D.095 Subd. 3.

Our current requirement/limit of transferring up to two online courses is not valid.

We do currently have a student who is looking for online learning for some courses.

John has highlighted the areas we need to look at.

How responsible are we for the students support in online courses? The online school is responsible for that support.

It is not considered dual enrollment if it is "supplemental". There is a difference between enrolling and taking supplemental courses. As long as the online provider is okay with that, then the student is still enrolled here.

Question: Should the number of courses be determined on a case by case basis?

It is important to remember they are our students until we receive information about a student enrolling into the online school.

There are consequences to the funding we receive when students are partially enrolled in online courses.

This Statute applies to all students in all grades.

It is the same as earning credit at MSA if the course is approved.

It appears students can take up to 50% of their courses through online course work.

If the online course doesn't meet MSA requirements, then we can contest it. But, to determine this, we need to set up a process.

Question: What if there aren't online courses that do not match?

That is why we need a process to make sure this is taken care of in a timely manner, and this needs to be developed as soon as possible.

MSA has 15 days after being notified to let the student/family know that the course will or will not meet requirements.

Question: Should we be treating these students like PSEO students? Are they assigned to a study hall?

We need to consider that this may reduce the regular classroom instruction. We may not want to require the student to be here when their courses are not meeting.

We need a sub committee to address this as soon as possible. Joell will run the sub committee. This issue will be brought up at Wednesday's staff meeting looking for additional members to help with the sub committee.

4. Sam's (New) Goals (John)

These go into effect next school year (20-21). These are mostly by department or WBWF.

These are different from the goals we set last year.

Questions: Did SAM give these to us? Where did the numbers come from?

They came from trends over the last five years. Based on that, they should be attainable. Some are mandated because MDE is requiring specific goals.

There were some stretch goals in last years WBWF which we didn't meet, but our results are still quite good as they are still much higher than other schools.

Questions: Why are we making it harder on the teachers to achieve these goals?

How do we send these results out to these departments?

Is there a way to see more specifically what it is the students are struggling with?

That is information Kirsten will have. We aren't sure if it can be broken down into subtopics, but we should be able to look at the strands.

Social Studies are taking a two-shot approach of targeting specific areas. We may never really know if the interventions are working.

5. How will MCA/ACT Scores will be given out to the departments to help them determine what their goals are? And how what should we do about last year's goals? (Emily and John)

Our MCA data has dips and are below some of our goals. However our numbers are still quite good. This could be due to new teachers.

6. Any new legislation that this committee needs to be aware of? (John)

This year is a policy year at the state level. John is on the MACS policy committee, and the first meeting is Sept. 23rd. He will be able to provide more feedback

Cruze Guzman v. State of MN is in mediation phase and it deals with segregation. This affects charter schools because they are a choice. MSA is no longer reflective of district 833 because we have more diversity, and this may impact us. The current discussion is trying to define what is and how to measure student achievement. There are three charter schools funding the litigation, and we have been asked to help fund the lawyers. This could affect all of education in MN because MN allows open enrollment.

7. WBWF Report (Tom)

N/A

8. Potential Science change in the Curriculum Review Cycle (Cheri)

We need to move up Science in the cycle based on MCAs and new standards.
Cheri will look into the dates for the changes of curriculum. This is a financial concern.
Since we know ahead of time, this can be planned out accordingly.

9. Should there be a limit on the number of Study Halls that a student can take per year?
(Emily - She will not be at the meeting, so here are her ideas:

Study Hall - There is currently no limit on the number of study halls students can take at MSA formally written anywhere (that I am aware of). This has not previously been an issue however I think as we have more seniors staying and a more diverse group of students I have had several students ask to take 3-4 classes and have the rest of their periods study halls (3-4 study halls). I have typically told them a maximum of 2 study halls total in their schedule which includes TAing if they choose to do so however, this past year I had received some push back from students and parents. My three questions are:

1. Do we want to put a limit on the number of study halls students can take?
2. If so, what is the appropriate number of study halls/TA periods?
3. Where do we want to provide the written information for parents and students to see?

If they aren't here full time, doesn't it affect funding?

Should there be a limit of two study halls? Is there enough room in study halls? At some point they become two full. So we move it to the Great Hall? With the new online requirements, this cannot be limited.

TA should be talked about during course enrollment. It should be added to the Course Handbook.

Joell will send out a Google form for teacher input.

We also have a work study program for students.

10. Should a 9th grader who is not taking Biology, still take the Biology MCAs? (Cheri)
There are 9th graders who take the Bio MCA. This needs to be looked into. Cheri will clarify with Jeana. This may no longer be an issue due to the new enrollment timelines.

11. Any other items?

Joell wants the teachers to be aware, and kids need to understand, that the final grade is what counts and is what is calculated into the GPA, not the individual semester grades.

We are allowing people who fail a semester but pass the year, to not have to retake the first semester. It is Joell's responsibility to go through the semester grades.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 7 at 8:00 A.M. in room 12 A