

# MSA Academic Committee

## Minutes

Weds., Nov. 2, 8 am, Room 12A

**Present:** Emily G., Bronwen W., Romelle P., Lisa A., Maggie B., Jen H-N, Cheri H., Hannah K., Joelle P., Cortney H., Noelle H. **Absent:** John G., Rita W., Tim T., Jerry S.

### 1. Old Business

- a. (15) **Review of last year's World's Best Workforce Goals and creation of 2016-2017 SMART goals.** (Romelle)
  - i. Recap of Annual Report - this report looks at last year's data
  - ii. MDE requires us to show improvement in many areas
  - iii. We do a great job in every area except EAS, SPED and ELL
  - iv. Graduation rate will continue to be our goal as we meet the 100% standard
  - v. ELL is also one of our goals - The goal is to maintain that number, Romelle will work with Teresa on this - There were 5 students identified from last year and 1 new one this year
  - vi. We meet the College and Career Readiness Goals because of our high scores on the ACT (28)
  - vii. To increase Math proficiency next year we will get rid of the 6th Grade Introductory Math class, and replace it with Pre-Algebra for all 6th graders, and students who do not meet the standards will have an elective to help fix their issues. This will not fix this year's issues, but is a goal for next year.
  - viii. Our Reading Score were proficient in all areas except 7th grade, but we are doing the nonfiction reading as a staff development goal to try to address this.
  - ix. From the Template: We met most of these goals, but MDE furthered defined them, which created a few more goals. By the way this template document is very easy to read and understand. .
  - x. The ESA Goal: (Equitable Access to Excellent Educators)We struggled here because have many new teachers, but that will change as they mature and are mentored.
  - xi. More about Math Readiness: we had a high proficiency rate in 8th grade (2011 used as a baseline), but we need to address the lower scores for the Asian-Pacific Islander cohort in the last few years.
    1. Romelle will create a small task force to create a SMART goal for Asian/Pacific Islander students and will email the goal to us next week.
    2. Some issues with this specific cohort pointed out by the group - so it's hard to compare:
      - a. Some of these students may have left
      - b. Some of these students may be Special Ed or the first group may have been the highest scoring students ever
      - c. It may be a small cohort, or some may have been absent.
      - d. This data looks at a different cohort every year, because it looks at 8th grade, so we cannot look at the trends. This also ignores what happened in elementary schools before they came to MSA.

- xii. Romelle and Joell will look to see if we have 20 Free and Reduced Lunch students to qualify as a group
- b. (7 min.) **Weighted GPA and classes** (Emily and Joell)
  - i. Yes, we can choose to have either or both on the transcript.
  - ii. However, we have to determine the range and what classes would be included. So would just the AP would be weighted, or also the PSEO?
  - iii. We cannot weigh the PSEO classes, because they are not ours classes. Unfortunately, this penalizes students who did PSEO because in the past, we did not offer all of the AP Classes we currently have. So those students “look” like they did not take the hardest classes on their GPAs. Colleges also look at PSEO and AP differently. Is there a way that we can fix this on our MSA Identity or what goes out to colleges? Could we list all of the AP offerings for the last 4 years?
  - iv. Students should identify in their college applications these special circumstances. Maggie said that she has been counseling students to include the fact that they may have had to take PSEO because we did not (and maybe could not) offer everything. Some current seniors only has the opportunity to take a few AP Classes, but current students might be able to take up to 10 AP Classes.
  - v. Student need to identify this in their college applications, in the special circumstances part. A good college will take all of these things into account, small school, small class-sizes, PSEO and AP Classes.
  - vi. If we don’t weigh the AP, then the AP students are penalized.
  - vii. The colleges just don’t really look at the weighted GPAs, but scholarships do.
  - viii. AP classes would be weighted on a 5 point scale and also have additional credit.
  - ix. Joell will find a few test cases to look at some samples of what the weighted and non-weighted grades might look like.

## 2. **New Business**

- a. **Midquarters:** Joell will email staff that midquarters grades are due next Wednesday, and then work on a letter for the end of next week. For grades D+ and below.
- b. (5 min.) **Communication process between teachers/office when students switching classes mid-term** (Cheri)
 

We need a process because the classes are not necessarily the same.

Joell is doing the best that she can, and this is probably an exception, but she will try to communicate as best as she can

Joell can re-activate grades if students need to switch and you can enter grades if need be.
- c. **MSA Strategic plan** - cheri

2 task forces to explore expansion and a House Model; these will be presented to the teachers at December workshop

3. **Next Meeting**

- a. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 am in Room 12A. Next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. Meetings are open to the public.