

MSA Academics Committee

Minutes

Weds., Mar. 1, 2017, 8 am, Room 12A

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

1. Old Business

a. PSEO Task Force update (Lisa)

- i. Have figured out what's needed for history and art credit; looking at other college syllabi (hard to get one from colleges/classes we don't have students in)
- ii. Emily developed a PSEO contract, needs parent and student signature; students not required to meet with Emily (contract due May 30)
- iii. Need to do more work on American Lit. and Spanish
- iv. Future: consider weighing PSEO classes

b. WBWF Goal (Romelle): will present WBWF at March BOD meeting; currently focusing on reading; won't need to go into the same depth with math, but do want to make sure that we don't leave identified sub-groups behind; next year we'll have a school-wide goal, bring to staff meetings (addressing SpEd needs, sub-groups that are in need, etc.)

c. 2017-2018 Course/Elective updates (Joelle)

- i. 10th-12th graders have returned forms; African American history class replaced with Sociology due to low registration; incoming 6th graders will have band (50 already scheduled); a study skills class will also be available for 7th-9th graders (2 semesters of it Judy S), along with 6th graders; we will recommend students to study skills and email parents to let them know; study skills is recommended for new students; put on Bldg. meeting agendas
- ii. Is there a place online where parents/students can see in an easy format what requirements are needed for each grade (what students [esp. High school students] need to take each year, so they know before they sign up for AP classes?; when you go online, it seems you have to wade through too much info; student coursebook has requirements in front; there is a graduation check list - can talk with Emily if have questions; we could put laminated posters on the walls during registration time for students to refer to; English class scheduling is confusing; Emily is working on a full website for the counseling office and hopefully that will be up and running by summer; Joelle will put registration forms on website and send email to parents

2. New Business

- a. **Friday study hall** schedule for next year (John)
- i. We are short on the minimum number of instructional hours due to our Friday study halls not being an instructional class (this does not include the study hall electives on other days); we need 61,200 minutes of instructional time, but are only providing 59,900 minutes; need 1,300 more minutes; we have 33 study halls scheduled for next year at 90 minutes each; how are we going to change study hall to make up the gap?
 - ii. What should we do with study hall? -- use it for PBIS instructional time (6-8 grades), going to need HS teachers involved with PBIS to get curriculum or other curriculum available for 9-12; Naviance for HS; at another school they had book clubs; do study hall by grade so they can do similar work; wouldn't need to have instruction during the whole study hall time; could be used for Link program, mentoring, as long as there is an instructional component to whatever is done, make sure it is done well (provide instruction), and not just technically legal;
 - iii. Need to bring to teachers; would this be adding more instructional time for each teacher?; requires teacher buy in; will we need to learn/plan new curriculum? does it add a new prep?
 - iv. At next staff met -- get a task force; curriculum out there that is ready to go; want to group classes by grade, alpha order, movement within topic; still have same hour; one suggestion was a 1 Friday/mo -- "Friday Focus" have set curriculum and sign up; an elective but kind of mandatory -- choose when and what topics depends on how you design it (way to get around nobody going to it)
- b. **Strategic Plan** (Cheri) - BOD looking at bolstering number of AP/CIS classes as part of maintaining/enhancing rigor -- is that feasible? (Hard to do with limited teachers and space -- have already expanded AP offerings from 4 courses 5 years [?] ago to 11 this year); we need more general classes (ie-sociology, psychology); what are we offering now and what is available?; we could offer AP every other year; are most AP classes filled? (varies each year); do all core classes have AP course?; should we replace literature, speech, or African American history with AP?; would have to take out courses and put them in; What if teacher doesn't have full load; AP Chem has specific structures/guidelines

3. **Next Meeting**

- a. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 am in Room 12A. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Apr. 5, 2017. Meetings are open to the public.