

Academic Committee
Meeting Agenda
9/10/18
8:00 am in room 4A

Present: Noelle, Donna, Rita, Cheri, Tom, Hanna, Joell, Emily, Lisa, Maggie, Teresa, Jen, Val, Noah, Karen, Molly,

1. WBWF - Tom

MCA data has been released and can be found on MDE website.

One of our goals was to increase proficiency of black students in math in 8th grades. We increased, but didn't reach our goal. The issue is that we are not measuring the same goals. Our numbers are small, so it is difficult to truly determine. Regardless, we did make improvements.

We did accomplish our 100% graduation rate.

Emily is working on ACT data.

EL students now have a class and time during advisory focusing on reading goals.

We will get to review the data prior to the BOD seeing the information in November.

2. Progress Monitoring - Tom

Our first FASTBRIDGE test day is this Friday and should take about thirty minutes during Advisory.

Next we will train teachers (6-8) how to access and read the data. We can add older students if we want on a case by case situation.

3. PD Committee - Tom

This group still has not met. There have been ideas brought up that will be looked at when they meet, likely gender identity topics will be covered.

4. HS Students who enroll late - Joell will have a process by next fall

Nothing to add yet...

5. How will HS classes taken by 8th graders appear on this HS transcripts? - Joell

Still waiting for Justin to work through this.

6. Merit Promotion Policy - Lisa

This has been an issue as of late. Lisa crafted a policy draft for us to go through. This needs to be looked at by the group. Differentiating between 504 students, IEP students, electives, and core subjects.

Are there procedures in place if a student disagrees with how something is graded? Do we need to make sure this door isn't closed to a student with this policy? This shouldn't halt a grievance process.

This policy would come into play after work has been done to help the student pass. This makes it so the teacher isn't the only person responsible.

The BOD will need to see this and determine if it is a policy or a procedure.

Specific language may need to be added about Spanish and math requirements.

Specific language should be added about students in grades 6-12.

Specific language should be added about the differences between core, elective, and enrichment courses.

This will be brought to the teachers for input. Then it will be brought to the BOD.

7. Calendar for Academic Committee: Lisa

This Month: We look at the summary goals of the ACT scores during this meeting. Departments will get the MCA scores and individual ACT scores by the end of the month so that they can look at their goals.

What is the purpose of this committee looking at these scores.

We have an increase in Does Not Meet across the board. This data should be brought to the departments for discussion.

Do teachers get more detailed information. It is something that needs to be dug for.

We are hoping FASTBRIDGE gives more detailed information regarding specific areas where a student (or students) may be struggling.

ACT summary report with more information will arrive in the middle of September, and this will be sent out to the departments.

As a group it is difficult to decipher. It is better on a student by student basis.

There is a plan for the 10th and 11th graders to take the Pre-ACT on a Saturday during this year. Essentially this information will go to the families first. It is unclear if Emily will receive this information as well.

There are practice tests available online.

8. Goals for the Academic Committee - Lisa

A. Curriculum Review Process

1. Simple or Complex Process?

2. Template

Teachers felt this should be a more simple process, meaning a couple of departments each year will review the curriculum maps.

The staff felt we should all work on the same template. This will be a difficult process, and the staff should decide.

It should be decided by the departments and the teachers which templates will work best.

B. Department Goals: The Departments should have their information by the end of September, so that they can look at their goals.

This is scheduled to be done.

9. ELL Concerns: Teresa

Records for students who are new to MSA have been requested.

Joell is completing MARSS report about students who speak more than one language.

Teresa met with the high school students on Friday, and it is a work in process.

10. Any new items:

Scheduling about AP courses and electives changes each year. The class numbers are high, but students drop. When should these classes be cancelled. Now we have classes which are too full and some that are too small.

Going forward it needs to be made clear students could be dropped from an AP course if they do not complete the summer homework and do not pass an assessment, they could be dropped. This should be part of the course description, handbook, and AP registration.

Can teachers have a discussion about students who sign up for multiple AP courses? Emily does do this, but it is really up to the parents and the student. Teachers do receive transcripts about the students prior to accepting them as an AP student.

What if kids drop and there are three kids left in a class after the original class is set. AP will be offered if there are at least 5 students registered. It's a nightmare to have to reschedule those students, and it is unfair to the students who remain. It is also difficult to deal with teacher contracts at this time.

Our scheduling ability is quite limited due to when courses can be offered throughout the day.

Emily believes if we create a consistent plan of when AP courses are offered. This will help to create larger classes in the future.

A task force should be created to look at these issues and the scheduling. It should consist of the AP teachers and Joell.

Meeting Schedule

Oct 1 - 8:00 AM Room 1A

Nov 5	Dec 3			
Jan 7	Feb 4	Mar 4	April 1	
May 6	June 3			

