

Academics Minutes  
October 7, 2019  
Room 12C at 8:00 A.M.

Members in Attendance: Kassie, Lisa, Maggie, Tom, Joell, Emily, Cheri, Hannah, Teresa, Noah, John, Kristin, Mrs. Meyer, Jen, Wendell,

1. Supplemental Online Learning Update (Joell) 5 minutes

This committee has met twice. The committee went through the schools which are approved for online learning via MDE. One student at MSA is currently taking online courses, and we need a procedure going forward.

The committee reviewed the state statute.

There is a form the family, the online school, and MSA must fill out for any student choosing to take an online course.

The committee is looking into if MSA is required to allow students to take these online courses, or if their requests can be refused.

For now, the contact person for students who are interested:

For middle school = Kirstin

For high school = Emily

This committee will develop a form like the 503 form for students who choose to take online courses. This form will allow a student to leave campus early. Preferably this will occur at the end of the day.

It is the committee's recommendation these students be treated like a PSEO students.

The committee is wondering where we will put students who choose online courses if they stay on campus. It is agreed there should be supervision. There is currently no solution for this.

The committee is looking into the possibility of MSA becoming an online school as well. It was questioned if MSA would receive funding for that.

The committee feels there are still many questions to look at.

2. SAM Academic Goals (Lisa) 10 minutes

A. I created a working template for the Departments to use. I have a few questions, but please come with suggestions/ideas on how to improve this document or process. I have attached the document as well. Please come to the meeting with ideas/questions.

B. Should we assign the goals to the departments or let them choose?

C. What about departments who have no goals tied directly to their subject?

D. Are these all goals for the departments? For example are goals 1.4, 2.4 and Goal 3 tied to WBWF or a department?

E. Not that I want more goals, but why isn't there a 3.3 (ESSA) and 3.4 (WBWF) goal for Science, only Math and Reading?

Each department needs to go through the SAM goals. It should be noted these goals are different from last year. This is a new contract with SAM, so there are new goals.

The current timeline includes who to go to for more data (MCAs, Fastbridge, PSAT, ACT). The most current MCA data was shared at the last All Staff Meeting.

The departments will determine what the plan(s) will be regarding SAM goals. By Tuesday, November 26th, these plans need to be turned into the Academic Committee.

It is possible that departments could still be working on the same goals as previous years.

Departments which do not have a goal assigned to them have not had to work toward these goals.

Our reading scores are lower than we would like to see. It would be beneficial to know which benchmarks are not being met. John explained that fundamentally we should start at reading, as it is encompassed in all subject areas. It makes sense to focus on bringing reading skills up.

The focus will be better spent focusing on the 6th and 7th grades. We need to get more information about where this focus needs to be. The English department will contact Kristin regarding MCA specific data regarding the middle school scores.

Departments that do not have specific goals will be given extra time to plan what they will do regarding the reading goals.

Fastbridge does not have a science test. Each goal has four components except for science; this is historical.

3. Report on the Progress of the WBWF Report (Tom) 5 minutes

MDE does not have the report out yet. So our calendar needs to be adjusted by one month. Once that data is received, Tom will look for volunteers to work on WBWF. The goal is still to have it out by December 1.

4. Modified Transcript Issues (Lisa) 10 minutes - I have attached a copy of this as well.

- A. Redundancy Modification and what that looks like in different classes (This is also a bigger question as well.)
- B. 15% Threshold: What does this actually refer to?
  - a. Amount of time spent on homework?
  - b. Amount of problems/questions?
  - c. A 15% percent change from MSA Standards or State Standards?
  - d. A combination or something else?
  - e. Days Absent
- C. Communication of the Modified Transcript
- D. Are there any additional issues?

The rollout for Modified Transcripts was not as clear as we wanted it to be. There is confusion over the 15% change to the curriculum. Is this change is to the MSA standards or the state standards?

Is there confusion over what is a modification vs. an accomodation? When we use the word modify for this transcript, it doesn't always mean the same thing.

Apparently, not everyone is on the same page for what constitutes as modified.

According to what was agreed upon last year, kids with modified transcripts are not expected to meet the same MSA standards.

There are some parents who do not know about this eventhough it is in the handbook and has been emailed home. Maybe this should this be covered at the next PTO meeting. It turns out parents of students with IEPs and 504s were not informed last spring about this change.

This type of course should already be in place for kids with 504s and IEPs who need Casemangers of IEPs and 504s are who is responsible for determining modified transcripts.

If it says modified in the IEP or 504, should it be an automatic transcript?

The process was for identifying new kids who needed modified transcripts. The kids who are already receiving modifications should have been placed in these courses already.

We also need a form for parents to sign for 504.

Each teacher should talk to the case manager regarding kids with modifications.

Although this information has already been shared with the MSA community, we should send another message out to the wider community so they are aware of this modified transcript change. The information that was sent out earlier this year was not in depth.

It can be added to the November newsletter. Mid semester is a good time to add additional information regarding modified transcripts.

How this works needs to be explained again at an all staff meeting.

A teacher should be able to determine if modified classrooms in Skyward are individual or grouped together.

5. Use of the Academic Agreements (Lisa) I have attached a copy of the 9th grade Academic Agreement - just so that you could see what one looks like. All parents and students have to sign these at the beginning of each year. My idea is that we use this document at the following meetings, to help provide context for the group to know where we are starting, when we begin to work with parents and students who are struggling. (5-10 minutes)
  - A. Conferences?
  - B. IEPs?
  - C. 504s?

Parents sign these agreements for each student. These should be brought to each meeting (conference, IEP, or 504), to show/remind parents what the expectations are for MSA students.

This could be a good way to start a discussion about modified transcripts. It would be nice to have the document as a talking point. This is the focus of MSA.

Let Joell know of any additions or changes that need to be made to these.

6. Any new legislation that this committee needs to be aware of from the September 23 meeting? (John) 5 minutes

Much of the meeting was about Cruz Guzman and waiting for a definition of academic achievement as defined by law.

There will be a requirement for a semester long personal finance class statewide.

7. Issues for the next meeting?

Information about reading goals

WBWF

Revisit students who fail middle school courses (not including Spanish and math)

Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 4 at 8:00 A.M. in room 12A