

Academics Committee Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2020

Members Kassie Larson, Lisa Anderson, Maggie Burggraaff (abs), Tom Johnston, Joell Pundsack, Emily Graveen, Cheri Howe, Hannah Kostichka, Noah Langseth, John Gawrecki, Jen Heydt-Nelson, Wendell Sletten, Angie Haverland (abs), Tara Richert, Noelle Haland (abs), Teresa Ward, Valerie Meyer (abs), Kirstin Knutson

1. Update/changes about school-wide reading goals for departments who do not have specific goals (Lisa and Teresa/Maggie)
Lisa confirmed the following and made sure there was not anything else from the group to add:
 - a. The English Teachers have created a template that they will share with the staff at the Feb. 5 staff meeting.
 - b. Staff will try to implement it once by the March 26.
2. Overall Yearly Achievement Goal (Lisa)
 - a. How is the goal determined?
 - i. Every person who contributes to MSA should receive the stipend. Is this what we want to continue? How should we divide up the money?
 - ii. The goal is taken out of the authorizer goals and a goal is picked and we go from there. In the past we picked a goal that was right in the middle of our trends so it was more achievable. An achievable goal would be to compare our MCA scores to the state average. We would use the baseline against the state average for this year's goal. If we do not meet this then there are some serious issues with teaching.
 - b. There has been some pushback from teachers saying the stipend should be teachers only. It used to be a four to one or three to one teacher ratio, but now it is at a 2 to 1 ratio. A few comments were that everyone should be in on the stipend.
 - i. A teacher voiced that this should be a 1:1 because support staff support the teachers. Also, the EA position is doing more one on one with the student.
 - c. Who gets paid and how much? Currently it is 2:1 for the teachers, should it be evenly divided?
 - d. This will be added to the staff meeting agenda. Present pros and cons and then vote online. Everyone will get a chance to vote.
Please let Lisa know if you have any comments. Lisa wants to make sure everyone has their chance to be heard.
3. Teacher schedule Update (Joell)
 - a. Draft teacher schedule

- i. Working on the draft teacher schedule. Will be shared next week.
 - b. Teacher Assistants
 - i. Teachers completed a Google doc indicating how many TAs they would like for 2020-21. This will be part of the choices when students register online (Skyward) in the next few weeks. Once the students are completed with online scheduling, the students will then pick up a TA form from Mrs. Graveen for the teacher, Emily, and John to approve.
 - c. Advanced Placement (AP) courses
 - i. All students received their AP approval or denial form. The students who were approved have until January 16 to return the signed AP agreement form. Anyone who did not turn in their form by the due date will not be allowed to register for the course. Seniors will be the exception because of not knowing their plans for the next school year. However, there has to be room in the AP class for the student to register, and the teacher needs to approve.
4. Revisit students who fail MS (not Spanish/Math) (Joell)
- A few in the group are looking into a summer school option at MSA for credit recovery. The majority of our families want to do some sort of credit recovery. It's difficult to find credit recovery outside of the school.
- a. Financially can we afford this? The Board of Directors would need to approve. This may come out of the general fund.
 - b. A good amount of students would be utilizing this credit recovery.
 - c. Next staff meeting Tom will present the number of students who have failed a course in middle school for the past few years.
 - d. We will have a vote whether MSA wants to offer a summer school credit recovery.
5. Math Graduation Requirements for New 9th graders (Noah)
- a. Noah has a few ninth graders who are not up to the standards. Considering what those options are, a summer program would be helpful.
 - b. Math department is likely doing some sort of curriculum change to support the teachers a little better. It will change at the semester break. With the curriculum change there may be a chance to double up next year. Sheri White is leaving at the end of the semester. Math department - Mariah is taking over Noah's classes and Noah is taking over Sheri's classes.
 - c. How about summer school for high school as well?
 - d. Ninth grade orientation evening is a good time to encourage all parents/guardians and students to attend to review the graduation standards, especially math.
6. Course Guide (Emily) Sent out course guide - make any changes needed. Deadline is January 15.

7. Diverse Staff Recruitment Taskforce (John)

Next meeting - Monday, January 13 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 8C

8. Modified Transcript Update (Lisa)

- a. Lisa did not have an update from the last meeting.
- b. A teacher brought up a conversation on modified transcripts she had with a school lawyer at a conference she attended. The lawyer recommended that we do not have a modified transcript.

9. Supplemental Online Learning Update (Joell)

- a. No update.
- b. Meeting will be sometime in the next month. Calendar invite will be sent to the members.

10. World's Best Workforce (Tom)

- a. Closing the gap on standardized testing, giving a realistic leeway in making this an achievable goal. It's unrealistic to make this a 10-12 percent jump.
- b. College and career readiness as far as ACT goal. Will be taking a closer look at ACT score data and what the average truly is - do we have a few low ACT and high scores over 32 ACT to make the average score?
- c. Goal - one hundred percent of MSA students graduate

Next Academics Committee Meeting: Monday, February 3 at 8:00 a.m., Room 12A