

Academics Committee Agenda  
January 11, 2021  
8:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M.

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97615541662?pwd=alpLczN3V3JUQkF0SUVzTUVwNXdwZz09>

Michelle Kurkoski, Maggie Burggraaff, Tom Johnston, Joell Pundsack, Emily Graveen, Cheri Howe, Jeana Albers, Hannah Kostichka, Noah Langseth, Teresa Ward, Kirstin Knutson, Tara Richert, Neelle Haland, Kassie Larson, Wendell Sletten, John Gawarecki, Jennifer Heydt-Nelson, Angie Haverland, Jennifer Bartle, Paula Akakpo, David Pushparaj John, Jill Findlay, Courtney Gregar, Shannon Froberg, Mariah Smith

1. WBWF Updates (Tom) 3 minutes
  - a. Fastbridge Data update
  - b. PSAT data update (?)

Two documents were sent out: the notes for last week's meeting and the goals. The goals mirror our SAM goals and look at achievement gaps, but do not set a specific rate for the school or for subgroups. The MDE test changes periodically, and when this happens, the numbers dip. We are always striving for the highest proficiency we can achieve.

1. 3.5% increase in scores by end of 2023 school year
2. ACT 85% of our students ready for college courses (Algebra, Biology, and English)
3. 95% of MSA students graduate

The public meeting will be held in February.

One question was raised at WBWF:

- How do we use ACT data to inform our practices. There is a desire to formulate a process so this is taken care of.

### **FASTBRIDGE**

- Are our students achieving at a lower level? Is there a big dip from last year to this year?

There doesn't appear to be a big dip in these levels. It is important to remember these are different students, but the numbers are on par with where the scores have been in the past.

We typically see a dip from fall to winter, but we did not see a large dip this year.

The data is on par with last year.

Demographic data by race is included, and this does mirror our MCA data.

- Is there a way to see the same group/cohort data from year to year? Yes. Tom will share this.

It is important to remember that percentile data is what is used. So this can be

confusing when looking at the numbers because it is not a direct comparison with percentage data.

## **PSAT**

### **Current 11th graders**

2020:

79% met both standards.

92% met evidence based reading and writing benchmark

79% met math benchmark

2019:

70% met both standards

91% met evidence reading and writing benchmark

70% met math benchmark

### **Current 10th graders**

2020:

84% met both benchmarks

91% met evidence based reading and writing benchmark

93% met math benchmark

2019:

58% met both benchmarks

78% evidence based reading and writing benchmark

60% met math benchmark.

2. Supplemental Online Learning Update (Emily) 1 minutes - are there updates this month?

This is still in flux and in reality can wait and be decided on a case by case basis right now.

- Can PSEO course equivalencies be planned to look at, too? Courses at colleges change, and it would be nice to have departments take time to look through this.
3. Tutoring program update - are there updates this month?

(Check-in next month)

4. Enrollment update (Joell) 3 minutes

Three new students enrolled last week: (2 8th graders, 1 6th grader)

One 9th grader is leaving, moving out of state.

We have over 350 applications for next year. Lottery is on February 9.

5. Scheduling update (Joell) 5 minutes

2nd semester begins next Tuesday.

Next year's draft schedule will be ready by the end of next week.

Students will begin scheduling at the end of January for next year.

Computer Science AP class changed a bit. There are two of them, each will be offered every other year. The AP CompSci that involves coding will require a prerequisite. Over 30 students applied, there are only 18 spots. A lottery will be held.

6. Curriculum Review Cycle discussion

- a. Social Studies new standards and curriculum review cycle (new standards final draft est. May 2021, final stages in 2021-2022 school year).
- b. Do we push off the whole curriculum review cycle by one year? Not sure whether any department is really going to be able to maintain it with DL and changing curriculum.
  - Can we shift this schedule by a year?
  - Can we discuss this with departments first?
  - Does delaying this affect WBWF and SAM goals?

As long as it doesn't affect curriculum delivery, it shouldn't be a problem.

- Is it possible to use major fundraising to spend on curriculum?

Tom will bring this to FTC.

A draft of the review cycle will be added to the Google Classroom.

\*\*this will be added to department meetings this month as a discussion, then back to AC next month

7. Review and discussion of \_\_\_\_ surveys

This will be available next month.

8. Academic Agreements

- a. Docs emailed to department chairs for review at department meetings (1-6-2021)
- b. Docs emailed to AC to help discussion

This is given to families on open house night and is essentially for the new families,

but it will also be included in the back to school information as well.

Proposed changes have been included. Joell changed the link, and altered the wording of points for MS.

Additional suggestions will be sent to Joell who will make the changes.

There is an issue/conflict with parents who agree to read the announcements daily but opt out of receiving the announcements. This will be added to the Communications Committee agenda. It was brought up that this might be a legality issue, in that we cannot force people to receive emails.

9. Question about elective credit

- a. If a HS student takes an elective for grad. credit and fails, they would need to repeat an elective that meets graduation requirement, but not necessarily the one they failed? - is there a process written somewhere?

The grading handbook has information on credits, but it may not be formally addressed about what class this needs to be.

10. Question about registration

- a. In the last year, there's been a trend of placing HS SpEd students in classes other than the required classes needed for graduation (ie-science, sociology, other?) This has never been discussed with departments or the Academics Committee-is this procedure written down somewhere? Should this be discussed?

There have been SpEd students who take alternative courses for graduation. This discussion has not been had with all the departments.

There is a concert that some students are taking an Engineering course in place of a science credit, but this is a math department course.

IEP's are a legal document, so they take precedence over MSA graduation requirements.

- Can these replacement courses be modified courses of the regular curriculum instead?
- Is it possible to invite the dept. Head or next year's teacher for the transition?

It would be appropriate to hold an additional meeting to discuss course progression, but not invite them to an IEP.

11. Modified Transcript and Alternate Course of Study

- a. Was updated last spring as part of a task force
- b. Procedure is in the updated grading handbook (not student handbook though)
  - i. Task force notes emailed to AC to help discussion
  - ii. Grading handbook pages 10-12 - pages emailed to help discussion
- c. There have been some concerns about the number of SPED and 504 students

- vs gen ed that have modified transcripts/classes.
- d. Difficult to gauge because this varies each year and semester (medical modified varies significantly)
- e. Revisit the percentage of modification- is it 25% of MSA curriculum but still meets all benchmarks, is it percentage of state benchmarks, etc.
- f. There have been some questions about SPED students having alternate courses of study other than the typical MSA progression.

This needs to be looked at again. We tried it, and now we've run into issues.

- How does this discussion begin?
- How are these decisions made?
- What is 25% of? Standards? Curriculum? Attendance?
- What constitutes modified?
- Are we talking about modified curriculum, not just less homework? There is a lot of confusion about what this means.

WE need to be aware that modified transcripts can be perceived as discrimination because 72% of our modified courses are SpEd and 504 students. There was a belief and understanding that this would not be discriminatory. We have been advised by our legal counsel not to have modified transcripts.

Modified needs to be reported to MDE at the end of the year. If this can be streamlined, it would be helpful.

The suggestion is that we rekindle the task force and have this revisited. This will be sent to all staff to gauge for interest in joining this taskforce. As of 1-12-2021, the following staff members have volunteered to be part of the Task Force

Modified Task Force:

- 1) Send out invite today for interest in being a member
  - a) Joell
  - b) Emily
  - c) Hannah
  - d) Jen
  - e) Thomas
  - f) Angie
  - g) Shannon
  - h) Kirstin
  - i) John
  - j) Annie
  - k) Markell
  - l) Heather
  - m) Lisa

## Elective Approval Process

- i. Discussion beginning, may need to continue in March

**This will be moved to the February agenda.**

Next Meeting: Will be February 1, 2021\*

\*moved earlier because of no school on 2-8 and 2-9

### FEBRUARY:

- Math department testing and advancement procedures update
  - Add to grading and/or coursebook?

### MARCH:

- Continue Developing Procedures for course approval and deadlines

## Academics Committee Yearly Calendar

Month	Description
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should the first Academics Committee meeting be in August (decide at June mtg)</li><li>• Get BOD SAM Academic Goals, and after determining any additional goals, set a process for meeting those goals</li></ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1st Fastbridge Inventory</li><li>• MCA results will go to the departments so that each department can determine how to approach their Academic Goals (For the 18-19 school year, this means Goals 1,2 and 5) When and how should they report the changes they made?</li><li>• Share last year's WBWF with SAM for the Annual Report</li><li>• Review - John sends new legislation/standards to the corresponding departments annually</li></ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual report due October 1</li><li>• Review of last year's WBWF report to the Academic Committee</li></ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of last year's WBWF report to BOD in November meeting</li><li>• Departments should begin to plan for next year's electives and to detail a back-up plan in case of low enrollment in the elective classes</li></ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WBWF report due to John by Dec 1 and to MDE (mid-Dec)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12/18 Course lists and descriptions due to scheduling office</li> <li>• 2nd Fastbridge Inventory</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office needs a list of classes offered by each department by the middle of the month (including AP and electives)</li> <li>• 1/3/18 - AP class schedule available to students</li> <li>• PSAT results can go to the departments</li> <li>• Review Academic Agreements and Open House Expectations</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students sign up for their classes</li> <li>• WBWF presentation and input from public</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd Fastbridge Inventory before Spring Break</li> <li>• Report how AP signup process is proceeding</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Program Policy committee should review model policies #613-620</li> <li>• Professional Development Task force will have data to begin to plan for the following year</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCA snapshot results available</li> <li>• Review PSAT(Dec) and ACT scores (if taken at MSA receive in May-June)</li> <li>• Students can see their classes online</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academics and WBWF committee will make recommendations and present them to Board by looking at the MCA snapshots and determine Professional Development for the following school year</li> <li>• Determine if we should have a meeting in August or September?</li> <li>• Reflect on goal setting for next school year?</li> </ul>
July	