



## **ACAC Meeting Minutes – 12/7/07**

### **In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>eMail Address</b>
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### **Finalized Course Catalogue Changes and Senior Electives:**

David advised, after review of proposed course offerings, that electives should be open to both juniors and seniors.

Matt, AC course catalogue offerings are being prepared for submission.

### **Senior Thesis Report:**

David believes that if the proposed advisories are implemented, they should be grade specific and that advisories for seniors be used to help prepare the senior thesis. The thesis should be the culmination of the students' writing skills. While the thesis should include components of critical thinking, analysis, and research skills, the principal focus should be on writing skills. Senior students would submit a proposal for their thesis to their English teacher at the beginning of the year and make periodic reports to their advisor. Most of the actual work on the thesis would be completed in the spring of the senior year, after the college application process was complete. Grading of senior thesis would be divided among all AC teachers and would be based on a prepared rubric.

Discussion in the meeting turned to when (which school year) to implement the senior thesis program. It was agreed that it is probably too late to implement next year, but could possibly be implemented for 2009-2010 class.

Discussion in the meeting also considered incorporating senior thesis into senior classes for support. Would not be graded as a separate course, but as a

project attached to English. .

### **11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat Day - Update:**

Matt & Pasquale noted that a retreat for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade AC teachers will be planned in January or February, to be held in March. Jane advised she would like to see an earlier meeting scheduled to improve coordination of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Matt advised that he did not think he could get the teachers to commit to a retreat before March.

Sherene thought that it would be a good idea to have 2 retreats, one soon for current communication needs and a 2<sup>nd</sup> in April for longer term planning. She also would like to see a retreat in April for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers as well.

Pasquale noted that funding for the retreats would need to be looked at. He will look in to getting some Title II funds for support.

### **Student Leadership:**

Zahra advised that the mentoring program was stalled; they were having difficulty getting students interested and starting. Janet and Jane both noted that student interest was a culture thing; it needs to be perceived as a “cool” thing by students and supported by teachers. Mia believes that there are some juniors who are interested in participating. Matt & Sherene will meet separately with student leadership to discuss ways to move forward.

Mia advised that the students would like to have a carnival at the school would like a meeting with some of the teachers to help in planning. Need to determine where & when this could be held and security arrangements. Matt suggested that he bring this up for discussion at next Wednesday’s staff meeting to get some teachers to help. Sherene advised that they would need to have a really “tight”, well considered plan to present to Principal Slep and the administration. She suggested that this be done before the year end school break.

### **Social Living Report:**

- Jon & Heather reported that curriculum is pretty well set. They have asked for one more meeting with teachers on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:45 – 5:45 to work with teachers on presentation of course material.

### **Christmas Party:**

Sherene advised that they have reserved a room at Beckett’s Restaurant on Shattuck for a Christmas party for the Academic Choice teachers on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Food for the group (estimated at 25 teachers) has been pre-ordered and she requested a check be delivered to Beckett’s ASAP. All agreed that this would be good for building bonds among the AC teacher group.

**Quarter Grades – Report on Follow-Up:**

- Pasquale advised that parents/guardians of students who received D's and F's on their quarterly grades have been contacted and that student counselors will be working with these families to improve their educational performance by advising them of the resources available at BHS.

*Next Meeting Scheduled for 1/11/08*