



ACAC Meeting Minutes – 4/17/08

In Attendance

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Student Assessment

Doug Powers advised that Brian Crowell has volunteered to work with students who are having academic difficulty over the summer. Doug asked Pasquale if he could get a listing of students at the end of this year who are having difficulty with classes (D's & F's) to focus on for raising performance during the following academic year or have Brian Crowell work with them over the summer school session. Pasquale suggested that students at risk could best be identified by a listing of those who have not passed their exit exams.

Budget and Upcoming Expense Items

Scott reported that we are financially in good shape. Our income levels are double over initial budget projections for this academic year. (Primarily thanks to parent donations solicited through efforts of Jon Marley.) Expenses are up 50% over projected. The Gala produced a much higher income compared to past years, but expenses for the event were also much higher than in the past. Net income was up from about \$5,000 to \$7,000. The Gala planning committee can use the results of this year's event to help determine what things are most successful in raising funds; what auction items do the best, perhaps extend time allowed for auction; ticket pricing, venue expenses etc. Scott noted that we will probably not use the entire amount of the grant from the BHSDG for reader support for teachers. We will probably lose the unused portion of the \$3,000 grant. Scott suggested that the needs of the teachers in departments of math and science should be approached and brought into the Academic Choice circle to assist them in their needs. AC is primarily a coordinated development of English and history curriculum while math a

nd science departments have maintained their independence. Perhaps representatives from those departments could be brought in. Doug Powers feels that these departments are still separate and wish to remain so, but they perhaps should be consulted with on academic standards – perhaps not next year but the following.

Teacher Support

Jane asked Karen if she had received feedback from teachers about what kinds of support they could and would use and find effective. (Considering that many teachers did not take advantage of the student readers that were made available to them this year.) Sherene advised that many teachers indicated a need and support for a “student coordinator” to follow-up in contacting families of students who are having academic problems at school. Doug Powers felt that “case management” of Academic Choice students will work better after next year, when students have been reallocated to either the IB school or AC. Right now, Academic Choice is responsible for all 11th & 12th grade students in large school. These will be split up into either AC or IB after next year.

Student Leadership

Mia advised that she will be meeting with administration following Monday about the carnival that they want to put on at the end of this school year. She also advised that students had a meeting to provide better coordination for the mentoring program next year.

Sherene suggested that the AC student leadership have a dinner early next year, serving the incoming AC students, to acquaint them with Academic Choice and recruit help for the leadership council.

Paris said that the mentoring program fell apart this year, it was difficult getting kids to commit. Doug indicated that mentoring needs to become a requirement in the AC program, perhaps having a requirement that each AC student perform a certain number of mentoring service hours before graduation.

Common Assessments

Alex reported that effort to split up world history into a third semester of ancient civilization and modern civilization has had a huge impact and is working out really well in student education. Next year for the 11th grade, Pasquale and Alex will meet with non-AP teachers of US History for commonality of curriculum for some consistency and the teachers will be assessed on how well their course material tracks with the common curriculum. Sherene asked how teachers will be evaluated. Pasquale indicated that some common questions be included into mid-terms or finals that would indicate if the teacher has effectively covered the required common curriculum. Doug said that effective assessment of teachers would have to include some classroom monitoring, perhaps having Alex spend some time in each teacher’s class to evaluate performance.

Social Living

Jon advised that he had met with Karen Kauffman during the past week. They both feel that it is important to ask and to pay Heather Sadlon to be the coordinator for this program beginning next year. The coordinator would need to bring new

teachers up to speed in the Social Living curriculum. Also, Jon noted that they believe that Social Living should not be expanded into the 11th and 12th grades next year but rather the focus should remain on refining the program for the 9th and 10th grades. Matt noted that the curriculum as currently developed for the 9th and 10th grades satisfies state requirements and that there was no need to expand the current program to the 11th and 12th grades.

Next Meeting Scheduled for 5/9/08