



## **ACAC Meeting Minutes – 3/8/08**

### **In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>eMail Address</b>
Jon Marley	<a href="mailto:Marley@stanfordalumni.org">Marley@stanfordalumni.org</a>
Scott Lancaster	<a href="mailto:scottiedog1@comcast.net">scottiedog1@comcast.net</a>
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Ann Callegari	

### **(Introduction of new parent – Ann Callegari by Sherene Randall)**

#### **Film for fundraiser**

Jane advised that the ACAC was making a film to show at fundraising events about Academic Choice. She wanted to know if it would be acceptable to film a couple of classes in progress on Thursday. Sherene and Alex said it would be okay to film in their classes.

#### **Technology and Professional Development Money**

Sherene said that she was having a meeting this morning/afternoon (12:20) with Maggie, Crystal, Sherene, & Ben about security of wireless system for mobile lab. Pasquale advised that there is still resistance to enhancing the wireless access or developing a separate system for the labs due to cost of routers and wiring and security. Jane talked about another school that set up a separate classroom for computer lab. Jane further advised that she was adding to the wish list @ BHSDG for 10 mobile labs. Ben noted that if we have multiple labs there could be 2 types – one for high end video development and one for simple web browsing.

#### **Assignment of next year's teachers**

Pasquale advised that the assignment of next year's teachers may be discussed today and that we should know within the next one to two weeks. Discussion will be of FTE (full time employment) teachers within departments and schools. Alex suggested, regarding master schedule, that it would be good if each school, or

at least AC, had a more formal meeting process to develop an ideal schedule for presentation to submit to the administration. Sherene agreed; lead teachers should coordinate this. She suggested that we could have a meeting next Wednesday, 3/12. Matt will need to schedule this.

### **11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade Curriculum Articulation.**

Senior Thesis – David indicated that all AC seniors will do a thesis beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year. (This year's sophomore class will be the first class.) David passed out a packet of information prepared to outline the new program including scheduling of key due dates for progress of the student's thesis during the school year and key components of the proposal & development. The proposal includes an element of a contract or agreement that is to be executed by the student and their advisor showing the elements of the thesis that need to be accomplished during year and due dates for progress. David noted that the biggest challenge will be "reclaiming" senior's spring semester, since many seniors relax their academic performance during the spring before graduation. The senior thesis will be one element creating an important distinction of Academic Choice from the other schools/programs at Berkeley High.

Ann asked how we would prepare AC students for this, considering the diversity in the AC program. Alex advised that AC will begin preparing students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Sherene shared concerns with Ann, that teaching and learning of the necessary skills are two different things. Alex feels that the skills are being acquired better than is being acknowledged.

Pasquale, Alex, and David all mentioned that part of the concerns about having individual students adequately prepared for the task would be addressed by appropriate matching of advisor and student and their interaction during the course of the thesis.

Sherene the topic of teaching of 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade teaching of skills should be discussed and worked through at @ 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher retreat this spring. Kate asked about outside/paid support for the students. Jane feels that this could be addressed with the paid student support coordinator position that we are considering. Karen noted that this topic was to be addressed later in the meeting agenda. She also acknowledged that our providing support through tutors for students and student readers for teachers had not been as effective in the support process as had been hoped. The hope is that a designated/paid coordinator for these resources would help.

Sherene noted that the "Rise" model for student assistance was working at other schools and that we might want to emulate that. We need to do a better job getting teachers to work with lower achieving students as well as they do with the high achieving students.

### **Common History Assessment**

Pasquale advised that STAR tests show we are not getting full participation by students to get a good, in depth assessment. He suggested that we could do our own assessment to get a better evaluation. Alex; wants to development of a curriculum that has common elements between AP and non-AP history.

### **Teacher Assessment**

Sherene asked how teachers will be accountable for teaching standards and effectiveness based upon “common history assessment” suggested by Alex. Pasquale advised that this could be made part of administrative assessment of teacher performance and would help make the coordination and reinforcement of common curriculum more effective.

Ben & Doug noted that follow-up with teachers in involving students is key to success of the program.

*Time for meeting expired before full meeting agenda could be discussed.*

*Next Meeting Scheduled for 4/8/08*