



ACAC (Academic Choice Advisory Council) Meeting Minutes – 11/12/09

Karen Meryash facilitating, Minutes by Kate Spohr

In Attendance

Name	Titles	eMail Address
Amanda Green	ACAC, AC Co-Lead Teacher, English	agreen@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Sherene Randle	ACAC, AC Co-Lead teacher, English	Sherene_Randle@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Jon Marley	Parent, ACAC Fundraising & Outreach,	marley@stanfordalumni.org
Karen Meryash	Parent, ACAC Student Support, Events	kspivey@ix.netcom.com
Kate Spohr	Parent, ACAC Parent Coordinator, Website	kspohr@berkeley.edu
Roia Ferrazares	Parent, ACAC Treasurer	persianchyld@gmail.com
Gregory Lewis	Parent, AC PLC	gregory.lewis@earthlink.net
Jaime Brantley	Parent, AC PLC, Outreach, Student support	jaimе.brantley@sbcglobal.net

LEAD TEACHER REPORT-AMANDA GREEN & SHERENE RANDLE

Social living training for new teachers

Six teachers need to be trained in the social living curriculum. Training will be done during Monday collaboration time on Dec 7 and Dec 14. Jon Marley and Sherene Randle will lead it. Curriculum binders have already been developed—they will be used as the basis of the training.

BHS schedule change

The SGC will vote on the proposed trimester schedule on Monday, Nov 16—then it will be presented to the School Board. Sherene and Amanda will begin working on adapting AC's curriculum to fit the new schedule once the School Board has made its decision—probably some time in December. Sherene pointed out that the schedule change mandates that AC's curriculum be aligned to state standards and money has been budgeted to pay teachers for their time to complete this important task. This will be a great benefit to the overall AC program.

Focus on Five

One of the recent PD days was spent on FOF. Amanda Green and Jessica Quindel led the session. Teachers have created action plans for how to address student needs within their classrooms. Parent conferences are also being held to identify and deal with student problems earlier. Science teachers are also implementing FOF. Once Power School is implemented, it will be useful in allowing teachers and parents to better communicate regarding student grades, attendance, homework, etc. However, AC will need to educate our parents on how to use Power School. One idea is to hold parent workshops during the spring. Discussion to be continued.

Professional Development for Teachers

The last all-day PD session for all staff was last Friday. There are four per year and this is the last one for this year. Remaining PD will be spent on small learning communities and/or departments during the Monday staff dev days. Christina Mitchell did a presentation on student support, and the new trimester system was discussed and teachers' questions were answered.

Increasing minority enrollment in AP classes

Amanda and Sherene have conducted student focus groups to better understand why kids of color are not signing up for AP. They want to use the new schedule to focus on AP, encouraging many

more students to take at least one AP class in their junior year, and one in the senior year. Focus is on “detracking” AP, giving all kids confidence and support to succeed in AP courses. Need to do a better job of marketing AP classes.

--Have students talk about benefits of AP to their peers.

--Offer summer bridge program, and make sure kids sign up for it.

--Train all AC teachers in AP curriculum. Jim Slempe has committed to having BHS pay to provide AP training to ALL AC teachers.

BUDGET – Roia Ferrazares

The AC budget report as of 11/11/09 is attached. The ACPLC passed a budget a few weeks ago (see 2009-2010 projected column). Roia presented it for discussion to the ACAC. Jon Marley stated that the PLC wants to ensure that all teachers have equal access to the small fund designated for classroom support (\$4000). Sherene and Amanda confirmed that they have informed all AC teachers of the availability of this fund. After some discussion, it was decided that Sherene and Amanda will set guidelines for use of the funds and they will be empowered to approve teachers' requests for reimbursements. Small expenditures for snacks during staff development days will be drawn from the teacher appreciation fund. They requested \$500 for supporting the AC teacher Christmas party.

AC GENERAL PARENT MEETING—KATE SPOHR

Proposed (draft) agenda. To be discussed and finalized at next ACPLC meeting on Nov 18.

- Welcome and introduction to AC—*Maggie Heredia Peltz*
- AC Program highlights, vision, plans for the future —*Sherene Randle & Amanda Green*
- Schedule change synopsis. Where we are now? —*Who will do this? Jon Marley?*
- Parent participation in AC, invitation to volunteer/contribute—*Jaime Brantley and Roia Ferrazarez*
- Q&A—*Lawrence Grown?*

EVENTS, MEETINGS

Next AC PLC meeting, Weds, Nov 18, 6:00 pm-8:00, East Bay Community Law Center

--Debrief of the 9th/10th potluck

--AC General Parent meeting, Dec 1

--What's Up With College Night

Next ACAC Meeting, Thurs Dec 10 3:45-5:00