

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Core Curriculum  
Secondary Education

*LANGUAGE ARTS OFFICE*

Meeting  
of  
Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Council  
3 August 2005

MINUTES

Schools without Representation

Arthur Ashe  
Glades  
Tequesta Trace  
Walter C. Young

Anita Plummer, Secondary Language Arts Curriculum Specialist, began the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Department chairpersons introduced themselves and Anita welcomed the following new chairs: Linda Derogene, Coral Springs Charter; Camille Morse, Lyons Creek; Michelle Gunning, Margate; Madeline Friedman, Nova; Valerie Rodriguez, Perry; Valerie Santana and Patty Garrard, Pioneer; Latricia Collier, Plantation; Grace Greenwood, Rickards; Mitshuca Guillaume, Seminole; and Judith Hurst, Sunrise.

Broward Enterprise Education Portal (B.E.E.P.)

Bob Elwell presented information about B.E.E.P., which is a single point of access to digital resources for teaching and learning. This portal will allow teachers, administrators, parents and students of Broward County Schools to access current and relevant information focused on student achievement, academic performance, and instructional resources. The technology department will conduct training sessions for schools. As the portal expands, lesson plans will need to be developed. Teachers interested in writing lessons for middle school language arts should contact Anita Plummer at 754-321-1857.

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Maxine Richman with Zaner-Bloser presented the *Strategies for Writers* program, which emphasizes revision strategies, teacher modeling, and rubric-based instruction in four modes of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive. The program is designed to be used in grades 3-8; it can also be adapted to be used in grades 9 and 10.

FCAT 2005 Interpretive Products

The FCAT Interpretive products listed below were shipped by Harcourt Assessment, Inc. and were packaged and distributed to schools.

- 1 *Florida Reads!* Report on the 2005 FCAT Reading Released Items  
(Grades 4, 8, and 10)

- 2 *Florida Solves!* Report on the 2005 FCAT Mathematics Released Items (Grades 5, 8, and 10)
- 3 *Florida Inquires!* Report on the 2005 FCAT Science Released Items (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
- 4 *FCAT Writes!* Report on the 2005 FCAT Writing+ Assessment (Grades 4, 8, and 10)

The reading, mathematics, and science reports describe the content and scoring of the released items displayed on the 2005 FCAT assessment. Each publication presents the item as it appeared on the 2005 test and includes sample papers and annotations for each of the score points.

The FCAT Writing reports display student responses with annotations for each score point.

#### Reading Content Assessed By FCAT and Content Focus by Benchmarks

Department chairpersons were referred to the content focus by benchmarks for each of the reading clusters. Chairs were asked to share this information with other content area teachers at their school.

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#### Summer Reading Plans

A copy of the summer reading plans was included in the folder. In May 2005, Language Arts Chairpersons and Reading Coaches were asked to develop activities for their students to complete upon their return to school in August. The plans should also include alternative lesson ideas for students who may not be able to access the books on the list. Since school begins earlier this year, it is recommended that students be given the opportunity to complete any reading that was not done during the summer.

#### Curriculum Maps

Curriculum maps were also included in the folder. Schools participating in the Springboard initiative received maps that align SpringBoard to the core literature selections. Chairpersons were asked to share copies with other language arts teachers in their department.

#### Language Arts Training Calendar

All staff development is scheduled during the evenings and on weekends. The folder included a copy of the language arts trainings that are offered for this school year. The after-school workshops are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., at Rock Island Professional Development Center.

#### Academic Games Coach/Competition Coordinator

Department chairs were referred to a memorandum from the Department of Student Activities, which outlines information for the academic games coach and the competition coordinator. Each middle school is entitled to receive one \$1,145.00 academic games coach supplement from the Department of Student Activities and Athletics and/or one supplement of \$718.00 for each discipline competition coordinator (computer, language arts, math, science, social studies ESOL, and foreign language). These supplements may be split between teachers, but can be no more than the designated amount. The deadline to enter an academic games coach is September 3, 2005. The deadline to enter a competition coordinator is October 3, 2005. A copy of the memorandum was also sent to principals.

Coral Springs Center for the Arts

A 2005-06 seasonal brochure listing the productions presented by the Coral Springs Center for the Arts was included in the folder. A list of Sunshine State Standards addressed by each production was also provided. The following shows are appropriate for middle school students:

- 1 *Walk Two Moons* - This play is based on Sharon Creech's Newberry Medal winning novel. The story is told by a 13 year old part Native-American girl on a cross-country quest with her grandparents to find her mother.
- 2 *Children's Letters to God* - This is a whimsical and charming musical inspired by the best-selling book. The adolescent actors grapple with the issues such as divorce, self-esteem, sibling rivalry, etc.
- 3 *My Heart in a Suitcase* - This thoughtful production tells a different story of the Holocaust, when thousands of Jewish children were transported to safety from Nazi Germany.

The cost of each production is \$5 per student. Interested teachers should contact Linda Hanson, Education Director at 754-344-3990.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Handouts

Core Literature  
County Adopted Textbooks (contact numbers)  
Middle Level Contact Personnel  
Broward County 2005-2006 Districtwide Testing Calendar  
Writing Posters