

Eastside High School SAC meeting November 8, 2012

Present: Sandy Waldon, Coral Antony, Annalee Perez, Hannah Rogers, Maria Zelaya, Bobbie Benson, Jeff Charbonnet, Adele Turnage, Dr. Ray Thomas, Mike Griffis, Elizabeth Washington, Chen Liu, Jeff Smith, Sylvia Walker

Meeting called to order by Elizabeth Washington, Chairperson at 4:35 pm  
Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the last SAC meeting held on Sept. 20, 2012.

Introductions were begun by Dr. Washington and continued by all present.

Meeting turned over to Jeff Charbonnet to discuss Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO's). High school grades have 16 components; not all components have been released for last year's grade. FCAT components and annual measurable objectives (AMO's) were released. Mr. Charbonnet presented data comparing 2011 with 2012. Of particular note were student gains in our lowest quartile (LQ). Reading gains improved from 2011 at 32% up to 52%. Mr. Charbonnet noted that it has been a while since EHS's Lowest Quartile reported over 50% reading gains. We saw a tremendous jump from 58% LQ gains in Math to 92% LQ Math gains.

Mr. Charbonnet and Ms. Turnage shared the fact that the Science FCAT will no longer be given in high school. It has been replaced with Biology EOC (End of course exam) which will count for school grade beginning this year. Last year's school grade will be calculated with no component for Science.

While explaining the data, Mr. Charbonnet told the committee that for Writing level 4 was going to be used for passing. However, due to feedback the state changed the passing score for Writing to a 3. The committee was informed that the passing score will be a Level 4 for this year.

Ms. Turnage presented an overview for Biology EOC. As of now Biology is the only end of course exam in science. This year, the EOC score counts 30% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students' grade in the course. This year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders must pass EOC (Level 3 or higher) to get credit in Biology.

There are also EOC's for Algebra 1, Geometry and American History.  
A Civics EOC is given in middle school.

A commendation was made by a committee member to recognize the fantastic teachers and the effects of the block schedule for major program ninth grade as reflected in the outstanding Algebra 1 EOC scores. Last year's score reflected only the performance of major program ninth graders; IB students already took Algebra I in middle school. The 80 minutes a day spent on Math is felt to be a contributing factor in the success of Algebra EOC results.

Mr. Charbonnet informed the committee that this year's EOC scores for Algebra in middle school will be banked and count forward for high school (will be reflected in a higher passing percentage in next year's data).

Congratulations from Dr. Washington to faculty and staff. She noted that teachers' evaluations are to be based in part on these scores.

A Motion to recognize the teachers was made by Dr. Thomas. The motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion moved to teacher mini-grants: First, Mr. Charbonnet stated that nurse supplies have been paid by the school so that grant request is pulled. The SAC has budgeted \$12,000 for teacher grants. Dr. Jeff Smith noted that if we spend a little more than half, no grant will be denied. Dr. Smith noted that this decision would still leave a reasonable amount for Phase Two. Additional discussion included the option of providing an existing unused document camera for Mrs. Christensen's grant. The consensus was that if Mrs. Christensen would be satisfied with the available camera it could be substituted for the grant. The ladder requested by drama would be considered standard equipment for a good drama department. Dr. Thomas noted that the type ladder requested is a sound, safe and wise choice.

Mr. Charbonnet noted that there are restrictions on how SAC money may be spent and that all grant requests have been vetted and were deemed acceptable.

Mrs. Antony noted that the committee receives more requests in the fall than in the spring, but this time frame is preferred in order to make early purchases. These actions indicate good planning.

Mrs. Antony also commented that book purchases from Amazon did not produce savings in the long run. She recommended that we used district-approved vendors when making book purchases. These books are "shelf-ready." It was noted that if books are purchased for a classroom (not the Media Center) then Amazon is an acceptable source.

An amendment was made that if the available document camera would be acceptable to Virginia Christensen, her grant would be withdrawn. Motion as made, seconded and approved.

Hannah Rogers noted that the National English Honor Society has been collecting ACT prep books and the club could donate the books that are requested by Mrs. Shitama's grant. Similarly, as with Mrs. Christensen's grant an amendment was made that if the books offered by the National English Honor Society to Mrs. Shitama were acceptable, then her grant would be withdrawn, otherwise it would be funded.

The grants were all approved with two amendments. Mrs. Benson and Hanna Rogers will follow through regarding the document camera and the ACT review books.

Next discussion item: As noted via email, Sylvia Walker has requested that SAC meetings begin at 5 pm instead of 4:30 pm.

There was a motion to move the time the SAC meeting starts from 4:30 pm to 5 pm. Discussion followed concerning the long day teachers would have. Motion was seconded and approved.

SAC meetings will now begin at 5 pm. Coral Antony expressed concerns with moving the time.

Dr. Jeff Smith expressed his confidence in EHS, in Mr. Charbonnet who is the best principal in the district or anywhere. Dr. Smith noted that Mr. Charbonnet is unbiased, he listens, and he inspects for quality and lastly recognizes leadership.

The committee heard the following announcements: the passing of the 1 mill referendum which indicates the confidence the community has in the quality of public education in the district. Mr. Griffis mentioned that the 1 mill initiative passed in all but one precinct in the county.

Mr. Griffis belongs to Citizens for Strong Schools and will share with us his editorial printed in the *Gainesville Sun*. Mr. Griffis also noted he is part of a lawsuit against the state for failing to provide high quality education and will keep the committee apprised of the suit's status.

Mr. Charbonnet recognized the fall sports teams: District titles for volleyball, football and both cross country teams. In addition three swimmers and divers qualified for state.

Allie Sourakov was chosen as the district's Sunshine State Scholar. She will represent Alachua County at the state conference.

Ms. Turnage shared the collaboration curriculum meeting that produced some suggested modification to the block schedule and AP program. In particular there are two issues of focus: increasing rigor and raising the college going culture. The College Board recommends that AP Environmental Science and AP Human Geography be paired for block schedules.

The proposed 4 by 4 block for the Major Program Ninth grade Honors group would be:

First semester: Math/English/World History Honors/Elective  
Second semester: Math/English/Biology Honors/Elective

This schedule allows the students to align their Biology class with the EOC time frame.

The 4 by 4 block for the Major Program Ninth grade Regular students will follow this schedule (first and second semesters are flexible):

Math/English/Life Science one term, then World History the other term/Elective

These students will take Biology in their sophomore year with the EOC at that time.

One comment made during the curriculum collaboration meeting was that even though students may not be performing well on the AP exams, they see themselves as AP students working at a higher level.

By addressing the Biology EOC issue, the AP Environmental Science and AP Human Geography are postponed until the tenth grade for the Major Program Honors students.

One reason to switch to the 4 by 4 block is that alternating days generate too much time lapse between content and remembering to do homework. Too much time forgetting and unnecessary time spent reviewing.

Our preliminary Biology EOC results are not where we want them to be. We need to make a change.

For those students who did not pass the Algebra 1 EOC, we have an Algebra 2 class for them. A similar mechanism is not available for Biology to prepare students who will need retakes. We need to address that concern with Life Science first in ninth grade, then follow with Biology in tenth grade.

Students in AP classes do not take EOC exams. The students taking regular or honors United States History will take the EOC. As of yet, there is no indication of passing AP score in lieu of EOC.

There is an issue with the fact that students can take the AP exam and do not have an incentive to do well regarding their graduation requirement, yet the school grade is tied to their performance.

There are two obvious benefits to moving to the 4 by 4 block: 1) four courses per semester instead of six and 2) teachers will just teach 3 classes per semester instead of six.

An added benefit is that beginning (or new) teachers will get two years of experience in one with the 4 by 4 block.

Again it was stated that the change in block format will leave English and Math unchanged, but will provide a better delivery for Biology.

There was discussion about mobility concerns when students enter or leave EHS with this 4 by 4 block. Transitions are always an issue and this scenario will not be much different than the ones we already handle.

New upcoming policy change when students use Alachua e-school we will keep the FTE, unlike when students enroll in FLVS.

It was mentioned that Loften High School uses this 4 by 4 block and one advantage is if a student fails a class in the fall, then he/she could retake it following semester.

It was noted that EHS will need to get SAC approval to have a waiver for block scheduling as we do every year regardless of the kind of blocking. Mr. Charbonnet noted that the number of instructional minutes will not change with the new block format.

Dr. Washington asked if there was any other business. None was discussed.

Next meeting will be January 17 at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned.