

SBRIT Minutes from 1/12/09

-John Stivers: off committee due to Monday grad courses.

-Minutes approved from last time.

Attending: Longfellow, Chapin, Frost, Lavoie, Ferrara, Sirois, Sweet, Bruno-Macdonald, Macnaughton, Greeley-Bond, Frautten, Kennedy, Ladner, Mark Kostin

-Ms. Bruno-Macdonald brought up question as to how the SBRIT respond formally to concerns brought up by George Woods at last Thursday's board meeting.

-Ms. Sweet reaffirmed need to respond, said she felt that we did not respond enough when Michael Woods addressed SBRIT.

-Mr. Lavoie: Spent 1 on 1 time with Michael. Ferrara met with mom and Michael for 45 minutes. Asserted that Woods concerns had not fallen on deaf ears.

-Ms. Sweet & Ms. Bruno-Macdonald wanted to make sure Woods was satisfied that he would get a response, and felt team may need to make it. Mr. Lavoie stated he'd speak with Mr. Woods and get clarification as to what he's expecting.

Updates □ Mr. Lavoie passed out sample of HS Transcript draft. Thrown out to consider changes. Biggest change is grade average for a full year can be (for example) a 3.2 (average of the 3 trimesters). Obviously, for a trimester course, this won't happen. Also, quality points will be given for Honours and Advanced classes (weighted at a 1.05)

-mr. Chapin: Work ethic / quality worker should be added in as separate entity as part of GPA, as per DCLT.

-Mr. Sirois: Clarification on "Quality Points" (Mark * weight * credit). Concern that transcript seems to undermine system by averaging standards into a class grade, which is then averaged into GPA. Concern is that the transcript doesn't show enough of the details as to what a student really knows. Also, it handcuffs (example) a history teacher from evaluating ELA standards (grammar, etc) when it may be appropriate.

-Mr. Chapin: Reasonable compromise over forces swirling around the issue.

Ms. Sweet: Draft A would hurt student incentive. 2 3's would ensure a 3 for the year: why try for a 4 in that last trimester. Also, the GPA number looks familiar (3.4) but may not correspond to what an admissions officer thinks a 3.4 is. The number is lost in translation.

Mr. Sirois: This goes back to the fundamental problem □ numbers. The numbers make the translation impossible. The numbers need to go out: Meets, Exceeds mean something clear. The Cum Laude system would be much better, as it would stand alone.

Ms. Bruno-Macdonald: Question as to why the standards aren't printed on the report card.

Ms. Greely-Bond: Difference between standards based teaching and learning and standards based grading. While assessment should be an integral part of instruction, maybe we shouldn't be marrying the teaching and the grading.

Mr. Sirois: Simple compromise—dual grading. Partially/ Meets /Exceeds plus the 1-100 system.

Mr. Kennedy gave examples of the difficulty in recording with two formats.

Ms. Bruno-Macdonald—We need to have some feedback from people who have been through this (Foxcroft Academy)

-Discussion of how other schools have posted grades on transcripts as well as converting them to GPA (Searsport and Poland Regional)

-GPA may be the wrong term.

-We need to honor the standard, need a transcript, and need to show a fair and accurate picture of student achievement / learning that don't place them at a disadvantage in college admissions.

-New topic: Grad requirement. What about kids w 1 & 2s

Mr. Lavoie: No credit until standards satisfied. Doesn't take whole course over. Needs to demonstrate proficiency in that standard.

Behaviour and Work ethic rubric submitted for review. Issue mostly with 4s and how that can be assessed and the level of fairness. Also, is 4 needed anyway? And is it achievable—if not, it will hurt student average unfairly.

Behaviour and work ethic will be required to graduate. Where does it go on the transcript?

-Career prep content area / DCLT has been discussing we/beh rubric.

-Final Prep for Weds meeting. HS Library 5:30-7:30