

BCTL Meeting February

In Attendance: 2/14/2012

<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. McCalla	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Williams-Clark
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Harper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Baker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Getto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Diggs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Houlihan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Panetta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Pape	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Farison	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Clemenzi	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Scialdo	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Foster	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Guagliardo-Day	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Holmes	

January Minutes:

- The January minutes were approved.

BCTLs as a sub-committee of the BLT:

- Our agenda states that we are now a sub-committee of the BLT under Curriculum and Instruction and that we will contribute to the evaluations and assessments portion (DATA). There was a brief discussion of semantics in regard to the word evaluations and its typical connotative meaning in regard to APPR and teacher evaluations. We are moving forward under the assumption that we are contributing as curriculum leaders.
- The BLT has charged us with defining our role/purpose/goals and also with sharing our minutes to improve communication and transparency amongst various committees working on behalf of the school.
- In regard to our minutes, we need whatever template the BLT uses; Ms. Getto agreed to send us the template.
- We discussed who would actually upload the minutes to the website; we agreed Mr. Harper would do this after the minutes were approved.
- At this point, a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the evolution of the BCTL position over the years. Mr. Pape offered a historical perspective of the position, and the contract language/MOA that defines us as facilitators of communication amongst department members, building administrators, and instructional supervisors.
- Mrs. Houlihan reviewed the evolved responsibilities regarding school and Regents exam administration in core areas.
- Ms. Baker mentioned the yearly leadership turnover of the committee and that this has influenced our role/purpose/goals.
- Committee members again expressed concern in regard to the following issues:
 - PE does not have a BCTL, and there is no stipend offered
 - Ms. Day is responsible for both Foreign Language and ESL, both of which are huge undertakings and diverse in terms of their needs
 - Mr. Reynolds has not been replaced since he retired and thus, there is no Music BCTL.

BCTL Meeting February

- There is no contractual stipend for SPED
- In general, there seems to be confusion and little clarity regarding our roles, to whom we report, and the delineation of our responsibilities, particularly in terms of consistency across departments.
- Dr. Diggs suggested we review our job description and make recommendations for a new one, to possibly begin discussions of clarifying our position in an MOA.
- Next steps:
 - Review job description
 - Make recommendations for a new job description
 - Central/building administration needs to support the BCTLs by clearly defining expectations

Literacy Across the Curriculum:

- Mr. Pape and Mrs. Houlihan both shared their respective department's efforts to build writing models. They will bring them to the next meeting to share with the committee.

New Business:

- We are unclear about the agenda item that prompts us to consider if we need course prep courses. We have those courses in core areas already.
- Ms. Baker recommended that after school Regents prep classes start earlier. The committee agreed.
- Dr. Diggs asked all BCTLs to email her recommendations for elective courses that could potentially run every other year by end of business Thursday.
- Ms. Foster mentioned that we are still feeling the effects of the 7 instructional period day of last year.