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# Curricuology Minutes

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. Presentation Center**

The following individuals were in attendance: Elizabeth Lozano, Cindee Rael, Scott Chennault, Mark Tompkins, Heiko Sweeney, Courtney Kirchman, Laura Ferguson, Mike Hall, Nancy Davis, Erin Ferreira, John Partin, Anne Gonzalez, Darin Denney, Ivone Rosa, Bill Bilbo, Penny Miller, Suzi Garman, and Jill McAlister. Guests were: Karla Orosco, Cindy Martin, Graciela Crockford, Michelle Thull, and Rebecca Camarena.

### ***I. Welcome and Introductions:***

Elizabeth Lozano called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Ms. Lozano welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. The minutes from April 21, 2015 meeting were read. It was motioned, seconded, and passed (MSP) by Bill Bilbo and Suzi Garman (Bilbo, Garman) to approve the minutes. (18-0)

### ***II. Request for District Writing Benchmark Assessment aligned to SBAC (EWL)***

Cindee shared that Kindergarten is planning to keep the same writing benchmark but use the TCOE rubric. First and second grade are revising their writing benchmarks, but the updated benchmarks have not been received. There is a need for input on third-eighth grade writing benchmarks. There are writing benchmarks available in the Interim Assessment Block. At this time, there is only one text type available per grade level (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> – Narrative, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Opinion, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Argument). For 2015-2016, we can use the current benchmarks in place, or use a combination of what we currently have and what is available in IAB. Rebecca Camarena asked how soon the scores would be available for IAB assessments. Cindee responded that they are teacher scored, just like the current benchmarks. They are designed to be scored online. However, the constructed response questions would need to be scored using the IAB assessment. We are not currently grading the constructed response questions. Nancy suggested using writing scores from only two trimesters for promotion/retention standards. Michelle asked if the IAB assessments would be timed. Karla suggested having some teachers pilot the IAB assessments in 2015-2016 using small groups of students who would take both the current benchmarks (for each text type) and the IAB assessment that is available for the particular grade. The IAB assessment would not affect promotion/retention. At least one representative from 4/5, one from 3, and one from 6/8 would be included. The district would ask for volunteers. Graciela Crockford asked if all students in the same grade level would be taking the same test or if it would be adaptive. Cindee stated that there is no conclusive answer at this time. It was motioned, seconded, and passed (MSP) by Erin Ferreira and Heiko Sweeney (Ferreira, Sweeney) to approve the minutes. (18-0)

A concern was brought to the committee from Akers about the timing of the district benchmarks does not match the SBAC administration guidelines. The benchmark has been administered over two days (part 1 on one day, part 2 on another day) and has required an alternate schedule. SBAC performance tasks are given in one session and are untimed. Rebecca suggested taking part one in one day, but allowing part two to be taken over multiple days. Michelle Thull shared that Central does not experience the same challenges because their classes are self-contained. It does take several days to complete the assessment (one day for part one and several days for part two). Graciela Crockford shared that Stratford takes two days, as well. Liz asked for discussion from the floor. Cindy Martin shared the CCSS emphasizes writing as a process, suggesting that giving students multiple days to write would be aligned with CCSS. Cindee shared that one reason the district suggests giving the benchmark in one day is because our writing benchmark is not secure as SBAC. For students who are able to take their iPads home or for those who use Google docs, some security measure must be enabled so that students cannot work on their essays at home. Many challenges due to the technology involved in Illuminate were shared. Liz stated that 1) Technology department will pilot some ideas, 2) Communication must be improved so that all sites have the same directions, 3) Security measures must be enabled. Some teachers asked how Illuminate is benefiting our students. Technology issues are making it difficult for teachers to administer. All 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers represented feel that extended time should be given to allow students to work through the entire writing process.

### **III. Request for Discussion and Clarification on 2015-2016 PD Plan. (EWL)**

One teacher shared that each site's science departments have unique needs for PD. She would like to know if the science training will be differentiated and will integrate technology. Lizzie clarified that there will be five district paid for days of TCOE science consultants for PD. The district only has 5 days and they must be shared by the entire district. There will be some type of technology integration. The district's PD days will focus on ELS/literacy training for of the adjusted PD days and technology for 2. Each site will get 25 days of technology support. Furthermore, the district will pay up to \$125 for training of the teacher's choice.

### **IV. Ways to Better Communicate (EWL)**

Principals will email Lizzie three ways Ed Services can better communicate next year.

### **V. Illuminate (SC)**

Cindee shared that there will not be any assessment at the beginning of the school year. Administration one (K-8) in ELA/math will be in late October/early November. Administration two would be for K-2 at the end of the year. For 3-8, SBAC will count as the second administration. K-2 teachers willing to investigate the CDE Diagnostic Recommendations as a possibility for future assessments.

For grades 3-8, the Interim Comprehensive Assessments are available through SBAC now. We could use the ICAs, but the time required for scoring is lengthy. We could transition to the SBAC Interim Assessment Blocks. Cindee recommends staying with Illuminate for 2015-2016. Lizzie feels that the negative effects of this change and the time required to score outweigh the potential positives. Rebecca shared that she feels the Illuminate test is not valid and would like to revise the assessments. Cindee said that we will compare SBAC scores to Illuminate scores to find the validity and alignment of Illuminate to SBAC. The district plans to have teachers revise the Illuminate test at Welcome Back in August. There will be a meeting specifically to discuss Illuminate within the first few weeks of school in the Fall.

Principals will email Lizzie five concerns about Illuminate.

### **VI. Questions, Concerns, and Comments**

None

It was MSP by Laura Ferguson and Heiko Sweeney (Ferguson, Sweeney) to adjourn the meeting. (18-0)  
The meeting was adjourned at: 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Kay Burrow