PLC Minutes

January 28, 2014

Room 36

Treats: Sheila

PLC Members: P. Kvien, K. Shanenko, K. Roelfsema, M. Olds, S. Cummings, K. Horner, S. Lerud, A. Johnson, L. Justesen

Members Absent: C. Kuehn

1. AMVETS Americanism Essay Contest

S. Cumming’s students are doing this! Sheila is using the idea of a mentor text (state winner from last year) to get students looking at structure and analyzing writing decisions. It is fun to see ideas from our summer NDCTE conference put into action!

1. Office 365 Logins & Passwords – S. Lerud

Sarah set up a time with all English teachers to show students log-ins to Office 365. This will be completed by the end of February.

1. One-Semester Electives for 2015-2016

Ideas to pass on to Mrs. Brandt: Creative Writing, Media Writing, Public Speaking, Business Writing

Kathleen Horner also pointed out that at some point semester classes may have the potential to replace a whole year of English 11 or English 12. Some examples were discussed, but at this point we continued to think of our brainstorming of new classes as electives rather than as requirements.

1. Pearson Webinar Response (K. Horner, K. Roelfsema, K. Shanenko)

Kyle, Kathleen, and Kristi shared their impressions of Pearson from the recent webinar—all impressions were positive! Pearson offers interactive online text that can go onto any device; they also offer a wealth of other resources (purchased from various companies) that comes with our textbook purchase. We were impressed. Kyle likes how the units center around one question instead of one genre.

Kristi will send questions to Jamie from Pearson:

* Is a hard copy audio library (CDs) included with our materials?
* Can you import audio to iTunes and save it on your computer?

1. EMC Comparison & Plan Next Step for Textbook Selection

Kathleen shared some information from EMC to compare to Pearson. EMC does not do webinars. Many things seem similar. The book is more traditional—more like what we already have and are doing. It’s familiar. At the end of this discussion, it was summarized that the majority of teachers are leaning toward Pearson, but no decision has been finalized yet. Kristi presented the list of top ND schools on the state test each year; Kristi will draft an email and ask Mrs. Brandt to send out on the listserv a question about which curriculums are being used.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. English teachers are concerned about two days of back-to-back testing for MAP. It is hard to give up two days; also, most students will be finished and will need to be “kept busy” the second day. Kristi will draft an email expressing these concerns to administration.

1. Continue curriculum alignment 7-12: Language
2. Ongoing throughout year in grades 8, 11: SmarterBalanced test prep

**Meetings Remaining** (Treat Person) *:* **March 11** (Kathleen), **April 22** (Sarah), **& May 13 (**Misty)