

MINUTES OF MEETING CURRICULUM COUNCIL

January 9, 2008

Individuals Present

Joe Palmer	Janet Kemp	Carlinda Rex	Charla Kelley
Lisa Nix	Joelle Wall	Bobbette Bell	
Terry Arant	Terri Seaton	Sandi Tucker	

1. STARS Conference – January 31, 2008

Vertical team leaders will communicate the following information to their teams:

- Date, time, and place of event
- The event is kid-centered and staffed by students.
- Each subject should highlight an exemplary lesson.
- Each display will include the lesson plan and list the TEKS.
- Teachers may set up after 10 a.m. January 31.
- Displays will be up through noon Friday, Feb. 1.
- Subject areas will be clustered and tables marked. Grade levels will be in sequence.
- Teachers may pick up their display boards on their campuses next week.
- Hands-on demonstrations are encouraged.
- Include the grade level and subject at the top of each display.

Council members agreed to complete the same tasks for the STARS conference that they have in the past. Bobbette Bell distributed post cards she and her students designed which will be mailed this week. The students also will create posters advertising the event.

Joe Palmer has created a map of the room and Lisa Nix will cover the tables. Joelle will ask STUCO members to distribute maps the night of the event.

2. Parent Conference Month

Council members suggested offering open houses next year on each campus to allow parents to meet the teachers. Follow-up parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled when requested by the parents, or deemed necessary by the teachers. Council members will discuss the topic at a future meeting.

3. Apangea Learning – Joelle Wall

Apangea Learning is a computer program offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to high school students in TAKS math classes. Ms. Wall said the program offers individualized, challenging instruction and can be accessed by students from their homes.

4. Gradespeed/On-line Lesson Plans

Terri Seaton suggested that students from grades seven through twelve be allowed access to Gradespeed so they may be held accountable for their grades. Council members will discuss this topic again at the March meeting.

5. Reading Probes – Carlinda Rex

Mrs. Rex distributed copies of the reports from the winter reading probe. Only students scoring below the 40th percentile on the fall reading probe were assessed with the winter reading probe. The spring reading probe will be administered **May 19-23** to all students in grades three through seven.

6. Benchmark Assessments

The second benchmark assessments will be administered at the following times:

- *ELA/reading benchmarks* – January 22 – 25
- *Science benchmarks* for grades tested by TAKS – completed by April 11 (three weeks prior to TAKS)
- *Math Benchmarks* – at the discretion of individual math teachers.

7. Academic Excellence Subcommittee

The Academic Excellence subcommittee has completed the final draft of the curriculum portion of the district's long-range plan. The vision is to increase the rate of academic success for all students, and to meet each student's unique needs in the general education classroom instead of through pull-out programs such as *Special Education* and *Gifted and Talented*.

The Academic Excellence Subcommittee recommends the following strategies: offer summer school in August; include early English-language immersion; co-op with other schools to offer additional electives; track students after graduation; investigate options for credit recovery and alternative means of education delivery; and enhance the comprehension skills of struggling readers through grade twelve.

The next meeting is 2:30 p.m. March 26 in the SIS Conference Room.