

## **ELAAC Agenda, 9/27**

**7:00-8:30 PM: Syphax Education Center, Rooms 254 / 256**

**Participants:** Mike Miller, Sarah Cruz, Gail Perry, Cloe Chin, Gabby Rivas, Reg Goeke, Karen Nimenca, Jamie Gillan

### **I. Introductions (7:00-7:10)**

Mike Miller, Chair  
Kate Merrill, Co-Chair  
Sarah Cruz, Supervisor, Secondary ELA  
Gaby Rivas, Supervisor, Elementary ELA  
Introduction of Committee Members

### **II. Secretary, Gaby Rivas (7:10-7:15)**

### **III. Updates from ELA (7:15-7:50)**

Updates on Last Year's Recommendations

[ELA Office presentation](#)

Goal is to embed writing tasks into ELA curriculum documents.

- Elementary ELA- has enhanced the K-2 CKLA student workbooks so they contain structured strategies (using the Hochman Method which has been used effectively by our new Elementary Literacy Coach).
- Secondary ELA middle school - students have to complete writing tasks. This has also been embedded into the ELA curriculum.
- Pending - teacher training, how to provide feedback to students, share exemplars of sample writing

Question: how to address the need to craft different writing genres?

Concern:

- scoring by AI, Paper Tutoring and alternative methods to increase feedback to students - ELA is training teachers to use these so feedback can be received in 2-4 hours (students submit their writing via Canvas) rather than turn something in and get delayed feedback
  - ELAAC - we need substantive feedback by a teacher
  - ELAAC asks- could we request smaller class sizes?

- ELAAC points out- non-ELA teachers need to use these feedback functions
- “More of the same” → not short writing assignments but longer, deeper literary analysis
  - ELA response: if we are working on the same assignment we won't be able to cover as many genres
  - Expectation by senior year is 8-10 pages
- Could we offer students choice between narrative and another genre?
  - ELA response: might be possible
  - ELAAC- could we integrate narrative with expository writing? Research papers often tell a story then offer research.
  - ELAAC proposes- could we focus different grade levels on different genres? Might be an option to weave these together.
  - ELAAC suggests - what about fewer assignments and more feedback? Fewer and higher quality.
  - ELAAC asks- is there an expectation of the number of assignments to be completed?

Assessments: New Reading Screener (Secondary); New Integrated SOL

- “IRW” announced in July 2023 -Students read social studies and science passages and write about what they read (5th, 8th, and End of Course SOLs)
  - State will use the VDOE rubric to score the IRW
    - To be scored by IA and human reader
  - These are based on current SOLs
    - State is reviewing SOLs this year
- Grade 5
  - Goal is to launch practice IRW prompts using our already existing prompts from our textbook resource CKLA

Curriculum Work and Resources

Professional Learning: Aspire and SoR training

#### **IV. Proposed Topics for Discussion / Recommendations (7:50-8:30)**

Discussion:

Recommendations:

Question: Do we resubmit our recommendations?

- ELAAC advocates to support writing
  - Make sure we also underscore evaluation and assessment
    - How can we ensure that our recommendations are being implemented?
- ELAAC advocates professional learning is needed given new method of teaching writing
  - Required PD is not going to be popular with staff
- ELAAC also advocates for class reduction
- ELA suggests the consideration of literacy coaches
  - 2 for elementary (was not funded this year)
  - 2 for secondary (was not funded this year)
    - To consider - writing coaches that handle cross curricular content training
      - ELAAC suggests collecting data for this year
- ELAAC asks about student portfolio
  - ELA office has reminded staff writing has to go home
    - ELAAC asks if IRW is more rigorous than the “5 paragraph essay” from before
      - ELAAC reminds that we need to teach students how to write a good introductory paragraph, etc

***In synthesis, recommendations:***

- Look at results from recommendations made last year
  - Budget considerations? **Due by Thanksgiving**
    - Support teachers to implement new writing methodology
      - “Writing coaches” as a new position
      - Use of state colleges as a resource
        - Ex. [ERWC = University of California](#)
          - Thinking maps
    - Class size reductions

Opportunity to learn more:

<https://thestudypro.com/1-to-1-writing-coaching/>

\*We can submit 1-2 recommendations.

A. "You will present and discuss your draft recommendation with the ACTL Council at one of their meetings. This is an opportunity to field test the recommendation with a wider group of school representatives and hone your rationale. If your recommendation will be related to changes to the Program of Studies (eg, middle school intensified courses) or has a budget request (eg, adding staff), you should aim to finalize that recommendation in December and present it to the School Board at the January 9, 2024 work session."

1. Nov, Dec, Jan ACTL meetings: Subcommittees discuss recommendations with ACTL.
2. Nov 20: Subcommittees send their recommendations to their staff liaison by Nov 20.
3. Dec 8 : Staff liaisons will share their responses with Sarah Putnam and Kerri Hirsch by Dec 8.
4. Dec 15 : Once reviewed, staff liaisons should share their responses back with the chair by Dec 15.
5. January 2, 2024: Chairs forward the complete recommendation report to Jenny by Jan 2. (This will still be labeled as a draft, to allow the subcommittee to make adjustments to the recommendations, should they wish to, after they have had their discussion with the SB. Note that if significant changes are made to a recommendation, a revised staff response may be needed. In those instances, we'll work on the timing and logistics individually.)
6. January 4: Jenny sends reports to the SB office by January 4.

7. January 9: Committees discuss their recommendations at SB work session.
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- B. “If your recommendation is related to general practice changes (eg, having professional development cover a specific topic), policy changes, or the School Board's Annual Priorities or Budget Direction for the following year, you will be in the spring cycle. (TBD on whether your work session will be on January 23, 2024, or in May 2024.)”