

SSAC Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2024

“AI by Tactiq, transcribed by Anjy Cramer and Nate Green”

- I. Attendance
 - a. Nate Green (Chair), Christine Joy (liaison), Anjy Cramer (Vice Chair), Erik Johnson, Allan Carey, Tralonne Shorter, Caroline Rogus, Henry Gould
- II. Approval of Minutes from September **approved unanimously**
- III. Presentation by Christine: 5th and 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum (further ideas about SS education at elementary level)
 - a. Andrea and Christine talked about moving 5th grade curriculum (Ancient Civ.), to provide resources for 5th grade World; explained that teachers are currently using 3rd grade materials for 5th grade class, thus materials are less rigorous
 - i. Christine’s proposal—moving half U.S. history (U.S. I) to 5th grade; then U.S. II taught in 6th Grade, so students would take 3rd Grade Ancient; 4th Grade VA Studies, 5th Grade U.S. I, 6th Grade U.S. II
 - ii. Verified Social Studies credit
 - b. Discussion of Performance Based Assessments: Inquiry Design Model—question, broken down into 3 supporting questions, a question, task, primary/secondary source(s)
 - i. Discussion of “Grade-banded rubrics” specific to a range of grades for a particular assessment—differences from the way many parents are accustomed to understanding assessments (grades)
 1. Similar concept as the performance-based grades, but across multiple grade levels, but room for confusion for parents and for students
 - a. Onus would be on teachers to “translate” what the rubric means for teachers
 - b. Concerns about performance on assessments—how to make sure students are prepared for assessments
 - c. Discussed grading in elementary vs. 6-12, as well as homework
 - i. Next steps for Christine’s proposal: unclear when will go before the Board, Christine will discuss with teachers
- IV. Civics Education—discussion of recommendation from a few years back: Caroline tried to track down what happened with each of the recommendations made regarding civic engagement for the past several years. (ie, was it adapted by the SB). Since members are term limited to 6 years, institutional memory is lost
 - i. Committee discussed citizenship and history, the importance of providing materials to teachers to teach difficult subject matter as a way of teaching engaged citizenship. This was part of the recommendation for an elementary school Social Studies specialist last year. Vetting materials has been difficult to do, as teachers request them.
 - ii. A short discussion about the five “Cs” took place: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication and citizenship and how could we incorporate those into this proposed recommendation.

- V. Update on Note-Taking Initiative: Nate
 - a. Reached out to Chairs of several Committees
 - i. Greg Eastman (Math); Rachel Berkey (Immersion Subcommittee of English Learners); Kate McKenney (Early Childhood); Mike Miller (ELA); Melissa Hyatt (Educational Technology); Aya Nakamura (Science)
 - b. Discussion of Mike Miller correspondence, annotating vs. note-taking, teacher examples of note-taking (Christine)
 - i. Committee will review .pdfs of note-taking resources shared by Christine and discuss them at next meeting
- VI. Adjourn 8:06pm