



Mascoutah

Community Unit School District #19

622 South Jefferson Street
Mascoutah, IL 62258-1128

GRADING SCALE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: April 4, 2013 at 6:30 PM

Location: Mascoutah Middle School Library

Members Present: Susanne Riechmann, Randy Blakely, Kyle Freeman, Karen Mulvihill, Pat Day, Kelly Caterino, Tammy Cox, Cindy Doil, Nancy Seibert, Jordan Rasch, Sandy Jougard, Chris Lindsay, Lee Piner, Marsha Ray, Monica Lynch, Robert Pearson

Absent: David Milton, Craig Fiegel, Jennifer Richter, Alana Fanous, Katie Nelson, Ron Hulliung

Welcome

Dr. Freeman welcomed everyone and explained that some of the committee members would not be able to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Dr. Freeman took a couple minutes to present the new web page designated for the grading scale study.

Sub-committees were given five minutes to discuss their research within each group prior to reporting.

Information & Sub-Committee Reports

New Information

Mrs. Lynch found some information regarding good student discounts provided through car insurance. Dr. Freeman stated that he would have that information posted on the Grading Committee web page.

Sub-Committee Reports

Dr. Freeman explained the procedures for sub-committee reporting and that his committee would report first. He stated that the average ACT scores had been added to the information contained in the tables regarding the Top 40 Large CUSD's in Illinois.

Mrs. Riechmann explained that there were some issues in collecting some of the data from other school districts. Most school districts do not maintain data on the average GPA's of the students in their schools, and comparing most class enrollments in many honors programs is difficult due to the varying ages of the students participating in those programs. She was able to utilize Honors English, however, because there is a freshman level honors English class in most schools. She then explained her findings to date.

There was some general discussion regarding the correlation between higher ACT scores and the advanced curricula offered through honors programs.

Dr. Doil and Mrs. Cox reviewed the literature that they found. There was discussion on a study conducted by the Fairfax School District in Virginia. They also mentioned findings from other articles regarding rigor vs. motivation, athletic implications, and schools changing to 10 pt. grading systems. When asked if they found any information on schools moving from a 10 pt. system to a more restrictive system (i.e. 9, 8, 7, or 6 pt. system), Dr. Doil and Mrs. Cox responded that they were not able to find any districts moving in that direction.

Mrs. Jougard and Mrs. Ray reviewed the information that they had gathered from several universities. Mrs. Ray discussed a survey that was sent out to 36 universities regarding admissions and scholarships. There was some general discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of MCUSD's current grading scale when compared against the 10 pt. grading scale. The tables containing the information discussed can be found on the Grading Committee web page.

Mr. Piner discussed some of the findings from a survey that he and Mr. Hulliung conducted with the HS staff. They are still in the process of following up with some of the HS teachers and their information, along with the information from the larger survey, will be posted once all data has been collected and organized. There was some general discussion on the impact of teachers on individual student scores.

Mrs. Seibert described the survey tool and process that will be conducted by the sub-committee assigned to surveying students, faculty, and parents. Junior and Senior students will be surveyed utilizing a paper and pencil survey. Teachers will be surveyed utilizing a computerized survey developed on "Survey Monkey". Parents will utilize a separate survey also conducted on "Survey Monkey". Parents will be invited to participate in the survey through an e-mail that will be distributed through the district student information system in order to elicit the maximum number of responses possible.

Additional Research Needs

It was decided by the committee to survey community members as well as students, teachers, and parents. A combined parent and community member survey will be sent to members of the Mascoutah Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Doil will seek permission to survey community members who currently work on Scott Air Force Base. If permission is granted by the base, those members will also be sent the link to the parent and community survey.

Meeting Summary

Sub-Committee Assignments

It was determined that the sub-committee assigned to gathering information from colleges and universities had completed their task and would be dissolved. All other sub-committees will continue to meet until their tasks are completed.

Preparation for Next Meeting

Sub-Committees were asked to complete all research and send it to Dr. Freeman on or before April 19. The deadline was established in order to allow committee members the opportunity to review all information prior to the next meeting.

There was some general discussion on how to proceed at the next meeting. Information will be reported, discussion will occur, and the committee will be polled regarding each member's stance on how to address the grading scale for Mascoutah CUSD #19.

Announcement of Future Meeting(s)

The next meeting will be conducted on April 25th, at 6:30 PM in the Middle School Library. The need for future meeting(s) will be determined at that time.

ADJOURNMENT