

**H.S. Graduation Requirements Implementation Task Force**  
**March 11, 2008**  
**Minutes**

In attendance: Sherrie Brown, Lynn Carroll, Linda Chapman, Helen Cratsenberg, Dennis D'Amelio, Jamie Freeman Craig Funston, Maria Griggs, Ira Hyman, Bobbie Jaffe, George Kaas, Dawn Kearney, Julie Kratzig, Susie Landsem, Andy Mark, Mary McClement, Gigi Morganti, Marcia Pederson, Michelle Ouilette, Phyllis Textor, Lynn Torpey

- I. The meeting was held from 3:00–5:00 at Central Services in Room 212.
- II. Information shared with the group:  
Dennis D'Amelio shared dropout information from schools in Whatcom County. He reviewed the data with the group and left his business card for anyone who wanted to contact him for more information or to discuss the data.
- III. “Management Action Plan” Template
  - Sherrie shared an updated Management Action Plan that showed information about Technology Connections and CTE. She also shared a template design that Janet Kennedy had done that was an improvement over the previous template. New information will be placed on the new template.
- IV. Review of Questions About CTE From the Previous Meeting
  - Sherrie reviewed questions from the previous meeting that were included in the minutes. Gigi Morganti answered questions about CTE. The task force was given time to process in small groups and put any additional questions or concerns on post-it notes. The comments are included with these minutes and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- V. “Ready Guide”
  - Sherrie shared information in the new “Ready Guide” with the task force. The guide outlines all of the graduation requirements through 2014.
- VI. English Discussion
  - The task force began a discussion about English. English offerings listed by high school were shared. Michelle Ouilette shared information about Options High School English offerings. Options teaches Culminating Project with Creative Writing. Culminating Project is not currently counted as an English elective. There was advocacy to allow it to count as an English requirement because it includes a scholarly paper and presentation skills. More discussion will follow.
- VII. Homework
  - The task force was asked to further review current English classes and to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss recommendations about English classes that should be considered as English electives. Questions asked were:
    - 1) What do our students need in order to be prepared for college, careers and citizenship?
    - 2) What classes should we consider adding to our English elective choices?

### VIII. Next meeting

- The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. It will be held at Central Services in Room 212.
- Topics: English and Mathematics

#### Notes/Questions from the task force:

1. I'm not sure cross-crediting is always due to scheduling. It is also to provide options. A student may want four years of math but not want Calculus. Business math and personal finance are good options.
2. I thought the original idea of Culminating Project was "independence." Now we have all of these courses walking students through this process. It is no longer an independent project.
3. Need the ability to sample CTE classes in the first few years of high school and preferably in middle school.
4. Please look at having more classes per day so students can have more flexibility.
5. How will Tech Connections modules be tracked in middle school?
6. Can courses like Algebra I, World Language, etc. taught at the middle school be automatically added to the high school transcript?
7. Capital expenses related to traditional CTE courses related to the trades (welding, shop, etc.). How do we fund this?
8. Flexibility in course sequence from early years with options available to seniors.
9. How about taking Tech Connections off the high school requirements list? That way we wouldn't have to track it at the high school level. NCLB says it's a middle school requirement, not a high school one. If we do this, what type of tracking/accountability needs to happen at the middle school?
10. Are we over-emphasizing CTE and its courses for students only needing 1.0 high school credit to graduate?
11. Current colleges indicate many students need Remedial English and/or math. What will be done to increase a student's level (besides adding more classes) to bring them up to college standards?
12. Why no Honors English for freshman? Just like some students ready for advance math, some are ready for advanced English too!
13. Why no writing courses in grades 9/10? All writing courses come after WASL.
14. Why can't high school be a time to explore different options? Why does a 14-year-old need to commit to a program?
15. When we talk about loss of funds, how much do we spend on kids who take classes two or three times in order to pass? It holds back others.
16. Target some areas for investing in CTE for some basic skills—there are still some basic auto mechanic tasks that could be taught.