

**H.S. Graduation Requirements Implementation Task Force**  
**March 25, 2008**  
**Minutes**

In attendance: Sherrie Brown, Lynn Carroll, Linda Chapman, Dennis D'Amelio, Byron Gerard, Maria Griggs, Ira Hyman, Bobbie Jaffe, George Kaas, Dawn Kearney, Julie Kratzig, Susie Landsem, Mary McClement, 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:
  - Sherrie reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Questions from the previous meeting were discussed.
  - Sherrie shared RCW 28A.230.090 “High School graduation requirements or equivalencies” that address the rules around granting high school credit for middle school classes.
- III. English
  - The group broke into three subgroups. Each group discussed recommendations for English classes that they thought should be considered as .5 elective options and made several other suggestions regarding the English program. Recommendations included:
    - Ensure consistent course offerings at all high schools. For example, some classes are offered at only one or two high schools. There needs to be consistency in offerings across the district.
    - Consider giving credit to peer tutors who tutor other students in English. This might also become an OCC option.
    - There needs to be more English options for ninth grade students instead of the “one size fits all” model currently in the district. Students who struggle in English need to have more classes available that offer them additional support.
    - Work needs to be done to align our district’s courses with college entrance expectations in English.
    - Consider offering speech, debate, Journalistic writing, and Culminating Project as English electives.
    - There needs to be better alignment between our district and colleges regarding the strategies that students use when conducting research and writing research papers.
    - Classes such as “Technical Writing” need to be updated to include current technology, text messaging, etc. The course descriptions need to be updated to be more interesting to students.
    - Consider adding a “Technical Reading” class.
    - Consider changing the high school schedule to accommodate more choice and options for students.
- IV. Mathematics
  - Sherrie reviewed the mathematics requirements as outlined in the Ready Guide.
  - Lynn Torpey and Maria Griggs, math department chairs, answered questions about current practice and challenges they are dealing with at the present.
  - A lengthy discussion followed regarding how the middle and high school classes were structured, sequenced, paced and scheduled.

## V. Homework

- 1) The task force was asked to review information about the Transition Math Project. Angela Murray will join the group for the next meeting. TMP's website is now available at [www.bham.wednet.edu/WCMP](http://www.bham.wednet.edu/WCMP). Task force members were encouraged to visit the website before our next meeting.
- 2) Sherrie gave task force members an article from Educational Leadership that she felt was interesting. The article was optional for task force members to read.

## VI. Next meeting

- The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for Monday, April 14 at 3:00 p.m. It will be held at Central Services in Room 212.
- Topics: Mathematics and World Language

### Notes/Questions from the task force:

1. New course proposals are needed so early in the year for the following year. This makes it extremely hard to get a class for our special populations who need help and limits our flexibility and ability to meet their needs.
2. Consistency of course offerings across the school district. Why is it not consistent?
3. Elementary schools have to teach math so students can be ready for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra!
4. In order to have our kids ready for Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we need to work on math K-7 to prep them.
5. Let's remember to talk about additional FTE that might be needed for each content area.
6. Equal access to math opportunities.
7. Grammar instruction.
8. Why is the C.P. class an English credit at SqHS and not at BHS and Sehome (applied communication)?
9. Raising the bar in classes so kids are learning English/math to not still need remedial classes in college.
10. What Running Start courses are students taking?
11. One size fits all math?
12. Vertical alignment with schedules for middle and high school.
13. What happened to journalism? What credit can they get for English, if writer? Occupational credit for computer layout person?
14. Speech/debate—why not offer as English credit—research, writing?