

Aligning Advanced Courses in High School Task Force

January 4, 2017; 10 – 11:30 a.m.

District Office, Room 205

Meeting started at 10:06 a.m.

Introduction

Everyone greeted each other.

Bellingham Public Schools Doctoral Resident Prateek Dutta welcomed everyone to the meeting and specifically introduced Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke, Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland, and Superintendent Greg Baker who joined the meeting.

Three goals for the meeting: 1) Conclude our conversation for Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 2) Create a district-wide vision for *College in the High School*, 3) Clarify next steps in our attempt to align our vision across high schools.

Prateek referenced back to the norms of the previous meeting, which include “ladder of inference” and “leading with inquiry.” A handout explained where the previous meeting left off, with the positives and negatives of students enrolling in AP classes and taking the AP test. After a summary of that document was passed around and read, the floor was opened for people to share their thoughts.

Steve said he has been thinking about this subject for a long time and recently had a change of heart. Previously, he was opposed to expecting students who enroll in an AP class to take the AP test because he thought it was unfair for parents. However, he now believes it is important for an AP class culture to have all students take the test, and also believed the school district should partially or fully fund the test.

Other task force members stated they are willing to support a policy that expects all students who enroll in an AP class to take an AP test, but only if the district can financially support families. Without financial support, multiple members were hesitant to a policy change.

After discussion, Prateek asked the committee to vote on whether to support a policy change that expected any student who enrolled in an AP class to take the AP test, provided families receive a financial subsidy.

The committee voted moving this forward as a policy recommendation to the executive team.

Prateek then moved on to the topic of *College in the High School*, and allowed the principals from Sehome and Bellingham high schools to discuss their experiences with the program. Both principals mentioned the program is a great opportunity for students to earn credits while staying in high school (unlike *Running Start*) and is much cheaper than attending a college after graduation. However, the two principals also mentioned that there were multiple partners that were involved with the *College in the High School* program, creating confusion and a lack of

coherence. Additionally, costs create an inequitable system where only those that can afford it obtain credit.

A discussion ensued and the committee decided they should get all of the higher education partners together in Bellingham and have a conversation about partnerships. The date for that was to be determined.

Dr. Baker concluded with a summary of his thoughts, and he stated his belief that whatever happens with the *College in the High School* program, it needs to be more equitable.

Meeting ended at 11:29 a.m.