

AP Meeting Notes

From: Grasso, Cathy <cathygrasso@ccusd.org>

Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 2:22 PM PST (GMT-08:00)

To: Burton, Jonique <joniqueburton@ccusd.org>

Cc: Lisa Cooper <lisacooper@ccusd.org>

The notes from today's meeting are attached. I took them in "minute" style so they are pretty detailed. You probably want to summarize but I wanted to leave them in their pure form and let you edit them!

Cathy

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Catherine Grasso

AP Environmental Science/Health Teacher

Culver City High School

Attachments

- AP Meeting Notes January 21.docx

January 21, 2020 AP Meeting Notes

Ms. Burton introduction – Thank you for conversations you are already having and the conversations counselors are having – Kids are not dropping at the same rates they were in the past- very few dropped this year after beginning AP Classes

Any follow-ups from last meeting?

Betty mentions that there may need to be a conversation about students in danger of failing after first semester

Ms. Burton asks -how many students have F's after first semester? - most teachers have less than 2 F's at semester

Dr. Cooper- if we are encouraging more students to take AP classes – we need to speak about what supports will we put in place?

Rachel- AP Classroom resources do not seem to be very helpful. MC questions are limited so we have limited resources to help kids prepare for rigor of test. Perhaps **Albert** site could be purchased and help with having more MC questions available for kids to practice

Mariah – Since middle school does not offer Geometry many students now are concurrently enrolled in Algebra 2 with AP Chem. The same issue happens with AP Physics- kids are concurrently enrolled in Calculus. This is challenging since kids are not mathematically prepared as they were? Many kids are taking SMC classes to advance in math-the SMC classes are not counting as high school credits towards graduation

What was the reasoning of getting rid of geometry at the middle school? – It was stated that common core was responsible for this.

Dr. Cooper—teachers can always give assessment and recommendation as to what classes the students should take based on assessment. Assessment be given early on in the first week to make sure they are properly placed.

Students have frequently commented that parents are pressuring them to take AP Classes. These same students are stating that they are memorizing content but not learning knowledge. This is concerning to them as they are concerned in college this will put them at a disadvantage. Some students feel that the class is being taught this way- to “memorize”

Ms. Burton - looking at data of students who enroll in AP classes- how do we increase the number of black and brown students?

Betty – AP lets you know what you should be teaching in lower levels. AP teachers should be teaching at lower levels as well. Many ideas came from this- We should be using PLC time to talk about what is needed in lower level classes. We can and should be sharing this information with teachers of regular and honors level classes.

It was mentioned that as a school we need a survey of what classes are currently offered and what kids want to take/ have offered. This could potentially increase the number of black and brown students enrolled in AP Classes

Rachel- suggests that when survey is sent out we should put descriptor of class so students know what they may or may not be interested in.

It was mentioned that students need to be realistic about what the course entails. Mariah shared a cover sheet and we will each adopt it in some way shape or form- Cover sheet will be placed as top page of summer homework. It should include focus, expectations, what the course will be like, percentage of grade the homework is, purpose of homework, when it will be collected, and when feedback will be given. Ms. Burton will assign a due date for this cover sheet in the future.

Dr Cooper and Ms. Burton – Registration and due dates are not done because we are looking at switching registration dates with the middle school. This will help with the master schedule and homework. Homework will be turned in earlier which will enable us to move kids out of AP Courses who have not completed the summer homework (before school begins) We will get information about who is in our classes sooner and will have summer homework sooner.

Andy Owens– mentions that by middle school students are already tracked, in fact by 6th grade. Do we need honors in 9th grade?

Dr. Cooper- by 9th grade students are already tracked into honors and AP the data around this is clear and they are meeting with the honors teachers to discuss this.

Ms. Burton- Mr. Owens developed 4 guiding questions for students who are considering taking AP classes. It was recommended that these be handed out to each student interested in taking honors/ AP. This could happen during registration and also at the AP Fair.

Dr. Cooper – for 8th grade night in the fall- some guiding questions were given to parents- we will do that more with 8th grade parents. 8th graders will have opportunity to come to AP classes during open house - if they come you should have conversations with them about appropriate courses to take. They should go to 9th grade classes but if they come to AP be sure to have the conversations.

Rachel- the ½ sheets should also go to the classes that feed into AP

Bill – what if student says parents want them to take the class but they don't want to take. Dr. Cooper suggests that you ask what they are interested in.

Katie P – even though we have scheduling fair and counselors and adult support – have students go into classes to talk about what it is like to take AP – let them know they may struggle but may also learn a lot.

In other words, have current AP students go into regular/ honors classes and talk about their experience/ learning in the AP class they are in.

Bill mentions that some students want to “watch the history channel” but aren’t up for the work load it is noted that this should be included when students go into classes to talk about the AP Experience.

Dr. Cooper – we need to discuss supports for struggling AP Students- We should try to think out of the box on this. For example, a lot of the students learn by videos – so posting instructional videos could be helpful on Canvas etc.

Rachel S. – gives links to videos that she recommends they look at as a test review. **Bill**- suggests you post videos you have reviewed as kids for support. **Cathy**- notes that not all videos are accurate and should be previewed but that there are many teachers who have created content videos that students can watch for extra support. **Cathy** asks for class set of AP review books that students can check out.

Dr. Cooper- Summer boot camps- are sometimes difficult for certain students because of traveling. Would Saturday review sessions work for struggling students? Would anyone be interested if we could pay for them?

Clarification- is it during the class or before the class- or is it both- Dr. Cooper is open to either

Ms. Cordell – kids should enroll in AP classroom – but can they do it ahead of time? It seems that they can not.

Betty – at my old school students would go into a class and have a “mock” AP lesson—Example Spanish 1 teacher would switch with AP Spanish teacher to show Spanish 1 kids what a typical AP class would be like (for both honors or AP)

Andy- open access has to start at feeder classes – it works if you are teaching the feeder class but we need to build these skills into all the feeder classes. There should not be a huge difference in these classes. Andy mentions teaching all classes to prepare for AP

Cathy- is concerned about pressuring students too much who are just trying to feel comfortable and confident in “regular” classes. Agrees that teaching standards is fine but is cautious about making the class too rigorous so that they do not feel successful.

Andy- use skill based questions – for all students and offer options to move forward in learning and do more work that is similar to AP as optional assignment for students.

Dr. Cooper - Build vertical alignment into PLC time—all classes should be aligned this way. Do now- go into PLC tomorrow – talk to dept chair about having time built into talking about vertical alignment and to switch – classes (see above)

It was recommended to pick a few standards from College Board to start vertical alignment. Mariah feels that boot camp is very helpful and was disappointed that it was canceled.

Graham- it would be helpful to have a document that shows common language that can be used across all levels of classes and what is essential for success in AP – Common language for what is successful in AP.

Dr. Cooper/ Ms. Burton Recap- we are good on summer work and will have due dates soon- Everyone here is a leader and we need to go back and carve out time to collaborate on how to get kids ready for upper level classes.

Talk to dept chair/dept about where can we collaborate and switch in a classroom—AP to regular = regular to AP

AP meeting date is coming in April to see where you can sign up for test to proctor

Perhaps discussion board is way to talk about this.