

**REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 220
6034 WEST 77TH STREET, BURBANK, ILLINOIS 60459
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
REAVIS LIBRARY**

MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Time: 7:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Mr. Ted Arnold
Mr. Gerardo Ayala
Mr. James Brodinski
Ms. Mary Ann Cook, President
Ms. Andrea Creger, Secretary
Mr. Russell McKinley, Vice President
Ms. Linda O'Dowd

Also Present: Dr. Daniel J. Riordan, Superintendent
Administrators
Students and Community Members

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2017.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 17, 2017.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no *Audience Participation* at this meeting.

4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

- A. Approve request by *Burbank Bulldogs FC Soccer* program to use the North Gym for the purpose of soccer practices on Tuesdays and Fridays from November 17, 2017 to February 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approve request by *Inter/FC Soccer Club* to use the North Gym for the purpose of indoor soccer skill drills on Tuesdays from November 28, 2017 to February 27, 2018, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: M. Cook
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Financial Statements dated October 31, 2017.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Payment of Bills for November, 2017.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

6. EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

There were no requests for *Educational Travel* at this meeting.

7. PERSONNEL

- A. Approve a flex time leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Julie Jooste, Teacher, between October 12 and November 2, 2017.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Ruth Cavallo, Teacher, beginning on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 until the start of Second Semester, January 8, 2018.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: M. Cook
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- C. Approve the hire of Ms. Julie Jooste, Division Chairperson, Fine Arts, Physical Education & Career Technical Education, effective January 1, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- D. Approve resignation, with regret, of Mr. Steven M. Kelly, Maintenance Staff, effective November 21, 2017.

- E. Approve resignation, with regret, of Ms. Traci A. Kelly, Support Staff, effective November 21, 2017.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve *Items D and E* under *Personnel* with one motion:

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- F. Approve retirement, with regret, of Ms. Deborah Heredia, Hall Monitor, effective December 21, 2017.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- G. Approve resignation of Mr. Robert Morack, Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach and Assistant Baseball Coach, effective immediately.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: A. Creger
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- H. Approve the hire of Mr. Don Erickson, Head Baseball Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- I. Motion was amended to read: Approve tabling the hire of Mr. Dick Canan, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year, until at least the next board meeting.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- J. Approve the hire of Mr. Kyle McKinley, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: T. Arnold
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- K. Approve the hire of Mr. Nick Bouhoutsos, Assistant Softball Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- L. Approve the hire of Ms. Iwona Wypych, Assistant Dance Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: T. Arnold
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- M. Approve the following volunteer coaches, effective for the 2017-2018 school year:

Ms. Genesis Myers	Cheerleading
Mr. Dylan Dybalski	Wrestling
Mr. John Grayson	Wrestling

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- N. ADDENDUM ITEM: Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Mr. Luke Miguez, Maintenance Staff, effective November 8, 2017.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: M. Cook
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no *Old Business* at this meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve 2018-2019 Curriculum Guide, as presented.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. McCurdy reported on the *Curriculum Board Committee* meeting held on November 7, 2017. The Page 1-14 highlights were discussed from the Summary of Curriculum Guide Proposals. Items of importance included changes in State testing as part of the requirements for graduation, Guidance updates, and dual credit/enrollment updates. The next phase involved new course proposals, drops, and prerequisite changes. A line-by-line discussion of various proposals ensued; i.e. changing the name of Three-Dimensional Art to Sculpture, to better allow students to understand the content. It was also decided to drop two Senior electives out of the English Department that had not been consistently taken over the last couple years, but to also add a new course that will take a look at critical analysis of contemporary culture. Positive references regarding English, Music, and Social Studies choices that include an additional AP course for advanced and gifted students were made before discussing the final section on physical education, health, and sport medicine course updates. Dr. McCurdy continued that the *Committee* also discussed Statewide SAT performance levels and multiple benchmarks: Moraine Valley Community College, ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) and College Board. In addition, conversation took place about we doing here at Reavis to prepare our students for the SAT.

Dr. Riordan added that discussion is also taking place about the future of our Summer School program. He stated that there are four components, the first of which is the Title I program. This provides a bridge for some of our incoming freshmen, especially those students who are identified as potentially struggling as they transition to high school. This program is written and funded from one of our grants and will be retained as is. He next spoke of the Drivers Ed Program, which is very popular in the Summer and brings in between 70-75 students. Between the tuition charged and some reimbursement from the State, the Drivers Ed budget is not a huge concern at this time, and therefore, it is likely that no changes will be made to this program as well. The third leg of Summer School offers remedial type classes for those students who failed a class, thus having to retake it in Summer School. Typically between 100-150, sometimes close to 200, students need these remedial classes. This program is being reviewed. One idea being discussed is incorporating our current Credit Recovery program and integrating the use of the Acellus curriculum and blended learning. The last component of the Sumer School program benefits students trying to get ahead; i.e., Band and AP students who are looking to free up their schedule for the school year so they can take an elective such as Foods or Art. Everyone agrees that we want to offer options for our students and families, but we also need to be fiscally responsible. Dr. Riordan has had two meetings with the Teachers Union already and they will continue to be consulted and have input into what the final product will look like. As a reference, Dr. Riordan stated that the District averages a loss of between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year to run our Summer School and we need to close the gap. He hopes to have a more concrete proposal by the next Board meeting.

A student asked and it was answered that the two English classes being dropped were *Connecting with Literature* and *Creating the Play*.

Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approve request by Reavis Baseball Team to travel to Destin, Florida from Saturday, March 31 to Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: T. Arnold
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

- A. Student Reports – no reports

- B. Administration

Mr. Raymond Negrete, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance, reported that he received a check yesterday for \$110,000 from Mr. Joel DeTella, *Hauser Izzo, LLC*, our former law firm. This check covers a PTAB settlement agreement reached with respect to 2008 through 2010 Property Tax Appeal Board cases, a portion of which was to be paid back to the school district. He asked Mr. DeTella and was advised that this was a unique case and, unfortunately, there are no other pending settlements. Mr. Negrete stated that this money will be deposited into the general fund.

Mr. Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations, stated that the problem with a heating assembly unit above Furnace Room 9, as reported on last month, has been successfully resolved, thanks to *SPM Architects, Precision Controls* and our own Maintenance staff. He also was pleased to report this was resolved at a very minimal cost. Mr. Smith continued that Dr. Riordan received a memorandum from the *Illinois Department of Public Health* about the lead in water testing 2017 deadline. He thanked Mr. Michael Hock, who worked with *ISC4 (South Cook Intermediate Service Center)* and *RCM (Regulatory Compliance Management)*, to get our water tested. The results, as expected, showed no lead in our water and this report was emailed to the *IDPH* today. The last step, as mandated, will be to notify our community by posting this information on our website.

Ms. Cook thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Mike Markham, *SPM Architects*, and stated that she was in the auditorium last week for Sports Awards Night, and remarked that it looks great. Mr. Smith said he would share her comments with *Oosterbaan and Sons*.

Dr. Beth Hart, Educational Consultant, reported that the administration continues to work on evaluations with the certificated staff. She noted that Reavis is hosting a SSC Academic Roundtable meeting next Monday, November 20th, with evaluations being the discussion topic; and Dr. Riordan and Dr. McCurdy will be sharing Reavis' very robust evaluation system. Dr. Hart continued that Reavis will be going through a compliance visit this coming January. The Regional Office comes in every five years to insure that the District is following the law and all statutory requirements. She met yesterday with Ms. Schultz, Ms. Nelligan, Ms. Shobe and Ms. Brodinski to start the process and she thanked everyone for their assistance and support.

Dr. Heather McCurdy, Director of Curriculum, further spoke that at the SSC Roundtable meeting next Monday, she will speak to "questioning and discussions in the classroom". This is an opportunity for all these district schools to get together and discuss how to make teacher evaluations more robust; this session will be very hands on with activities focused on

developing questioning and discussion as well as skills in the classroom. Dr. McCurdy continued her report by thanking Ms. Cook, School Board President; Ms. Ann Trovato, Library Board Treasurer and Trustee; Ms. Kristin Thirion, Tinley Park Village Clerk; and Ms. Barb Gagle, Alderwoman for the City of Burbank. She is grateful they took time to be here in the Library earlier this evening for our students to talk politics with local government officials. The board members spoke about how they prepare for a meeting and what topics are important to them. She also thanked our students for taking advantage of this opportunity, and Ms. Mary Claire Ahern, our Media Specialist, for coordinating and emceeing.

Ms. Julie Schultz, Director of Student Services, reported that when we return from Thanksgiving break, the Guidance Department will host College and Career Week, November 27th through December 1st. The week will include a special event for each of our underclassmen that supports the registration process. The freshmen will participate in an interactive elective fair; the sophomores will view in a homeroom setting a Google slideshow that includes teacher created course overviews and reasons to take those electives. Finally, our juniors will return for the Second Annual Junior Press Conference held in our auditorium where they will have a chance to listen to industry professionals as well as university and FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) personnel. The week will include a Throwback Thursday where teachers can share with students which college they attended; we will ask the faculty and student body to wear their favorite college wear. Finally, counselors will also provide information about the curriculum guide to students in their guidance homerooms. Registration will officially start for students in January. Ms. Schultz continued that new teachers received professional development on mandated reporting at their November meeting. This ISBE mandate for all new employees was held in a small group setting, where we were able to discuss the requirements of all teachers when it came to reporting abuse or neglect and discussed our school procedures if an event should occur. Teachers also received supplemental materials provided by DCFS that outlines our responsibilities as mandated reporters.

Ms. Schultz then spoke on behalf of Ms. Erika Banick, Division Chair, Humanities. Ms. Banick provided the Board members a Literacy Liaison Program update (attached to these Minutes), reporting on the amazing collaborative work going on between classroom teachers and our Literacy Coaches. Ms. Banick invited members to contact her should they have any questions or would like more information.

Ms. Schultz continued that Mr. Tom Witting and Ms. Banick had the pleasure of attending the PLC (Professional Learning Community)'s at Work Conference in San Antonio, Texas last week with ten teachers representing nine different departments. They stated that it was one of the best conferences they have ever attended. They learned a great deal about how to maximize student learning through teacher collaboration. The concept centers on four questions: What do we want students to learn? How will we know they have learned? What do we do if they haven't learned? What do we do if they have learned? By creating teacher-designed common formative assessments that focus on essential standards, we can look at clear data to figure out which students need help and in what areas. They look forward to implementing this kind of work more and more in the near future and thanked the Board of Education for their support.

Mr. Don Erickson, Director of Information and Educational Technology, reported that tomorrow is Schoology Day. Teachers will be attending one of eight sessions all related to Schoology and all of the workshops will be led by Technology Committee members. Mr. Erickson continued that the laptop exchange that he reported on last month is nearly complete. The IT staff has collected all of the HP laptops from the staff and distributed the new Dell devices. They plan to ship the HP laptops back to PCM this week.

Mr. Eric Novak, Athletic Director, thanked the Board, as always, for recognizing our student/athletes, coaches and teams during the Pride Pin Ceremony and celebrating the successes they enjoyed during the Fall season. We have now fully transitioned into the Winter Season and our coaches and student/athletes are excited to be in the bowling alley, on the hardwood, in the pool, and on the wrestling, cheer and dance mats.

Mr. Mike LaMantia, Division Chair, Math and Science, reported that over the past two months, all Statistics students have been using the EdReady program to prepare for the math portion of the Accuplacer exam, which is Moraine Valley's entrance test. This morning, twenty of these students went to Moraine Valley Community College to take the exam. These students were chosen by their teachers to take the exam today based on their progress in the EdReady program. After taking the test, students were able to meet individually with academic advisors to discuss their course placement and ask questions about application and registration procedures. There was also a presentation about Moraine's orientation process, and students were able to take a tour of the campus lead by Reavis' own Ms. Sarah Schultz. Students who did not place into college-credit math courses will have one more opportunity to take the Accuplacer exam in March. Math teacher, Joe Illichman also took the exam today and we will use his first-hand knowledge of the test to refine our use of the EdReady program and better prepare students for this important exam. Speaking of college placement exams, Mr. LaMantia reported in September that he was in the process of researching information about the placement process and content of the non-credit Developmental Math Courses at MVCC. This is an important issue because students who place in these courses are required to enroll in between one and three semester long math courses for which they receive no credit. Thus, these students face an additional financial responsibility and an extended path to receiving an Associate's Degree. Over the past two months, Ms. Schultz and he have engaged in conversations with several members of Moraine Valley's staff and have learned much more about the placement procedure, the content of the non-credit courses, opportunities to accelerate the movement of students through these courses, and different paths of study available for both STEM and Non-STEM majors. They are also looking at placement data and retention rates of Reavis students and developing proposals to help our students move into college credit math classes at a quicker rate. They will condense this information into a report that they hope will be both a valuable resource for the Reavis community and help in the creation of a more efficient path for our students to their Associate's Degree. Lastly, all first year Algebra classes will be completing the Skyscraper Model Project by the end of this week. This project requires students to research and determine various heights and widths of a Chicago Skyscraper and use ratios, proportions, and conversion factors to determine an appropriate scale factor for their model. Students will then use Legos to build a model of their Skyscraper. All told, there will be over 200 models built by the end of this week. Algebra teachers have done a great job in making this project both a rewarding and valuable experience for our students. Thanks also to the Maintenance Department and IT Department for their help in organizing the logistics of the project.

Mr. Ayala noted that several years ago he donated five professional scale house models and asked if these were being utilized. Mr. Morack answered that these models are in Mr. John Jones' CAD (Computer-Aided Design) Room, 225.

Mr. Bob Morack, Division Chair, PE & CTE, reported on the blood drive held on October 20th and he proudly reported that *LifeSource* and Reavis teamed up to collect 200 units of blood. *LifeSource* presented a \$4,000 check to Reavis High School for our efforts in the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Morack thanked Ms. Sue Williams, Ms. Jen Annel, the entire PE Department, Reavis faculty, staff, and, of course, our students for all of the donations! Mr. Morack continued by noting a parent emailed us thanking the School Board, Dr. Riordan, the Regalado's, Ms. Maureen Hernandez and our entire PE Department, for bringing the *YH4L* (*Young Hearts for Life*) cardiac screening program to Reavis this past Fall. Mr. Morack

stated that we screened 1280 students that day and nine students were detected to need additional tests. One student had those tests and it came back that he had Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome (WPW). All of his doctors said how lucky he was to receive this test and that it wasn't a matter of *if* he would have a cardiac event, but *when* - very scary. His parents wanted Mr. Morack to share this with everyone at Reavis. "It's because of all of you that "his" heart is now healthy and that he will be able to continue enjoying being a 15-year-old with no limitations. He will be able to re-join his beloved soccer team and, in time, follow his dream of being a Navy Seal."

Ms. Julie Jooste, spoke on behalf of Mr. Witting, Activities Director and Division Chair, Fine Arts, and congratulated our Reavis Art students who were recognized at the Chicagoland 4x5 High School Art Exhibition held at Oswego High School. Over forty schools submitted more than 1000 small (4x5 inch) pieces of work in nine categories. Junior Alejandra Rodriguez Patino won 2nd Place in Drawing; Senior Amy Banks, Sophomore Fatin Nassan, Senior Javier Gutierrez, Junior Kaylie Kwitkowski and Senior Jessica Ruiz Glowacz won Honorable Mentions in Drawing. Seniors Hanane Bounar, Jenna Rapp and Brittany Hannan won Honorable Mention in the Painting category. Continued congratulations to our Chamber Choir and Intermezzo on their wonderful performances last Thursday night at the Charity of Voices concert at St. Albert the Great Parish here in Burbank. Reavis joined with Oak Lawn and other area high schools to share the gift of music with the community and Mr. Witting thanked Mr. Davis for his leadership. Lastly, the Senior Breakfast takes place next Tuesday, November 21st, where 353 of our Senior students purchased tickets to attend this annual Breakfast.

C. Teachers Union

Mr. Andrew Terleckyj and Ms. Kelly Klein thanked everyone for the opportunity to come back and again address the Board. At the September meeting, they asked the Board to consider changing the name of the Columbus Day Holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day. They know that the Board will be approving the 2018-2019 school calendar shortly and wanted to provide a follow up report. It was suggested at the September meeting, that they get a larger sampling of student voices and Mr. Terleckyj thanked Dr. Riordan and the administration for helping them facilitate an opportunity to collect that data. Half of our student body had the chance to witness a live debate where our students listened to both sides of the issue and then take part in a follow up survey. Sixty one percent of the participants surveyed stated they would be in favor and proud for Reavis High School to make that name change, with only 17 percent disagreeing. Ms. Klein continued that since they last spoke, the Illinois legislation passed a new bill acknowledging Indigenous Peoples Day on the last Monday in September on the State calendar, while still honoring the traditional Columbus Day Holiday in October. She shared a statement from the American Indian Center that they were surprised to learn of this new bill, are disappointed that it passed and Indigenous people were not consulted during the crafting and passing of this legislation. They believe that this bill is actually a hindrance to some of the progress that has been made to the motive of challenging Columbus Day as a holiday. Ms. Klein ended by thanking the students in attendance who are here tonight to support them in this endeavor.

Ms. Cook thanked Mr. Terleckyj and Ms. Klein and stated that the Board has no questions at this time. She spoke that they are also doing research and discussion has taken place. She is not sure if a calendar change will be made for next year or even the year after that, but she promises that discussion will continue.

D. Support Staff Union – no report

E. Maintenance Union – no report

F. Board Reports – no reports

11. CLOSED SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2, to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, dismissal or evaluation of personnel, contract negotiations, possible or imminent litigation, resident delegate concern, student disciplinary issues, and held recommendations with any required action taken in open session.

Time: 8:01 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Time: 9:55 p.m.
Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

13. NEW BUSINESS

There were no motions brought up after Closed Session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:55 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

Signed and approved this 12th day of December, 2017.

President

Secretary

Reavis High School-Humanities Division

Literacy Liaison Program Update

There are some terrific things happening this year all over our building between classroom teachers and our Literacy Coaches. Here are a few of them!

Geography (Meskill)

Zombie Apocalypse: students work in groups and must figure out how to survive a zombie apocalypse. The teacher gives certain criteria (i.e.: the virus affected all towns with populations over 400,000) and students must come up with strategies for escape and survival. Where do they relocate? What is the best way to travel there without entering an infected zone? Students must use their knowledge of physical geography to develop and explain their plan. Then they use their knowledge of human geography to answer questions about what kind of society they will develop in their new settlement.

Sociology and Advanced 3D (Lauer and Jooste)

In Sociology, students choose a social issue for long-term research. They begin by identifying a problem in our society, and then they research and collect data, specifically about stakeholders on either side of the problem. They must identify influential figures, large-scale actions, and include numbers, charts, graphs, etc. Next, they develop a hypothesis wherein they take a stance on the issue and defend it. Finally, they make a recommendation for solving the problem that includes data for support and outlines the compromises stakeholders would need to make in order for the solution to work. This semester, Bill Lauer has joined forces with Julie Jooste's Advanced 3D class, as they both work with the same Lit Coach. Julie has tasked her students with creating a final exam piece that makes a statement about a social issue they find compelling. They collaborated with the Sociology students and spent time interviewing each group about *their* social issue. The information they learned will help them decide which issue to focus on and how to design their pieces.

Government (Jebens)

Political Identity Project: Students interviewed both peers and adults, asking questions about their political identity, gender, level of education, and a few other demographics. This information was then compiled and charted by the whole class (names of the interviewees were not reported). The class analyzed the data and compared it to both national data about political identity and their own *assumptions* about what "kind of people" are democrats, republicans, or independents.

Powers (Ryan)

Every week she and the coach focus on a different area as she transfers worksheets and book info from the publisher of the Powers book onto Schoology. Some highlights:

- For checklists, students take pictures and short videos and insert them into the electronic worksheet
- For a homebound student, students created “training videos” to showcase the shop, walking through the location, explaining where items were located—it was focused on safety
- To encourage written work completion (students in powers excel with the hands-on stuff more than the book work), she created pods with shift leaders (which are upperclassmen)—if any worker in the pod has incomplete work, the shift leader is held responsible

Spanish for Speakers I (Moran)

Students are reading *La Lección de August (Wonder)* in class. They are functioning like a Book Club, so they work in a group. He is working on helping students develop quality discussion questions (he has provided examples and intends to give feedback on questions they turn in to prepare them for the real thing). As groups read and listen to the audio in class, they use a shared Google doc to jot down confusions or insights, and the group members help each other out.

Guidance (Primary contact: O'Donnell)

In effort to improve college readiness literacy with our students, counselors and Lit Coaches have developed an activity designed to teach students how to read award letters provided upon acceptance. In order for students to make informed decisions about where to attend college and how to determine their financial packages, they need to be able to compare the information in these letters. Counselors are going to push in to Economics classes to share this information.