

**Literacy Council Minutes**  
**Monday, September 12, 2011**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Melanie Dabbe, Academic Coach; Ronnie Garrett, Reading Coach; Tiffany Martin, Neica Arias, Gina Rader, Harriet Fordham, Reading; Cindy McCallister, Media; Jorge Lazu, ROTC; Farisha Ali-Bhola, Dorothy Calise, Multi-VE; Sandi Curtis; Science; Dawn Alves; ESE/Science; Keith Poulsen, Social Studies. There were no representatives from P.E., the Arts, Business, Math, or English.

**Years in Review:**

- Ronnie explained the origin of the Literacy Council with our initiation as a Flare School in 2002. The council consists of CARCs (Content Area Reading Teachers), CAR-PD teachers, Department Representatives, and Academic and Reading Coaches.
- School Activities have included: Wednesday Reading Initiative, Silent Sustained Reading Initiative, Poetry Slam, Literacy Fair, FCAT Parent Night, Game Days, AHS Reads, Book Fairs, "What are you Reading" signs, QUINT Awards, Data Distribution, School Wide Reading Strategies, FCAT Focus, and After-school Activities.

**2011-2012 Focus: Discussion centered around three key areas:**

- Understanding Data and the Tools Available
- Research Based Reading Strategies Across the Curriculum
- School Wide Events
- **Understanding and using data:** Members agreed that the majority of teachers at AHS are proficient at using Data Warehouse. Ronnie is meeting with the English Department next week to review using the Data from PMRN as a progress monitoring tool to guide instruction. Dawn expressed concern over training for Performance Matters. The faculty was told that we would be able to access all of our testing data from that one site. Ronnie and Melanie are going for training on Friday and will be offering ongoing Professional Development throughout the year as to how to best utilize this site.
- **Using Researched Based Reading Strategies in the content areas:** Members reviewed what has been done in the past, what has been successful, and what teachers are comfortable with. The consensus was that using the FCAT focus strands by department insured that every strategy was being covered. There was also discussion as to training content area teachers on how to teach students to read their specific text. While our Wednesday Literacy Initiative was discuss, and Ronnie suggested focusing on Before, During and After Reading Strategies there was no consensus as to how to proceed this year. **This will be addressed at our September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

### **School Wide Events:**

- **Book Fair Update** - Dorothy Calise reported that when she was at Books-A-Million last week, they were heavily marketing Book Fairs for schools. Ronnie will call to get information. We REALLY would like to have a Book Fair this fall; however, we need to make sure the books are affordable for our kids.
- **Poetry Slam Volunteer** - The consensus was not to go forward with the Poetry Slam this year due to the quality of the work of the applicants and their lack of follow through with attending practices and meetings.
- **FCAT Parent Night** - Due to the fact that two parents attended in the Fall and one parent attended in the Spring, we will not be offering an FCAT informational session.
- **Literacy Fair Information** - Cindy has graciously volunteered to host a Literacy Fair in January in the Media Center to help celebrate National Literacy Month. More information will be forthcoming.
- **First Game Day** - It was decided that instead of doing one game day after school, we will sponsor "Game Week" the week of 10/24/11. All of the members agreed to donate at least one lunch period to chaperone. There will be no games on Wednesday due to the shortened lunch.

### **Other Pertinent Notes:**

- The Lunch Bunch Reading Group will start underway in October. Promotional literature for you classrooms will be forthcoming.
- In October, the Media Center will be displaying teacher's "Favorite Reads." Look for the announcement.
- **Meeting dates are as follows: 9/26, 10/17, 11/14, 12/12, 1/16, 2/6, 3/5, 4/2.**