SCC Meeting

November 19, 2007

5:15-6:15

Present: Maryanna Swanson, Connor Barry, Matthew Lepage, Lena MacLean, Gillian Cavezzali, Carol Lurie, Donni Hughes, Nicholas Mignanelli, Linda Horton, Julie Fogarty, Peter Gulick, Pam Harland, Bruce Parsons, Taysha Allen, Hannah Ingerson, Greg Turmelle, Kathy Ringlein, Ann Blanchard, Michael Horan, Lee Despres

We picked up the discussion of the Digital Portfolio as a Senior Project continued from the October 15, 2007 meeting.

Pam Harland presented a sample Digital Portfolio project that a typical senior would have:

<http://www.taskstream.com/ts/harland/SeniorProjectPortfolio.html>

The sample includes pictures, descriptions, a resume, a 4-yr plan, academic work with reflections, awards with reflections, and extracurricular activities with reflections. All academic work is directly connected to the 4 PRHS expectations & indicators.

Lena MacLean presented a freshmen student’s Digital Portfolio. The student has uploaded pictures and written a description of herself.

Mr. Parsons pointed out that new state standards require that digital portfolios will be a graduation requirement for this years sophomores (graduating class of 2010).

Matt LePage expressed concern that too much time is coming out of English classes in the current digital portfolio model. Mr. Parsons assured all of us that no time will come out of English classes. English teachers will be guiding students on what types of projects to include in the digital portfolio- but once students are adept at using Taskstream, students will be working independently on uploading files.

Connor Barry asked if there are rubrics associated with digital portfolios. Lena explained that while there are no state rubrics she has developed multiple rubrics for different parts of the portfolio creating process.

Ann Blanchard is concerned that this year’s sophomores have already forgotten how to use Taskstream- as the last time that they used it was in Freshmen Seminar and the English dept isn’t planning on taking students into curriculum labs until spring. We all agreed that it should not be left up to only one department – but that all of us should be encouraging students to upload files to their digital portfolios throughout a student’s career.

Ann suggested that it would be beneficial to have someone like Lena or Pam available to meet a class in a curriculum lab and walk the students through the process.

Mr. Parsons shared with the committee that Mr. Halloran is recommending to the school board that Lena MacLean and the digital portfolio project move into the Library Media Center next year. This way, Pam, Lena, and the rest of the Library Media staff will be available to assist faculty & students with all aspects of the digital portfolio process. Teachers will be able to schedule time in the library or schedule one of the Library Media staff to meet a class in a curriculum lab to walk the students through the uploading process. The Library Media Center will provide the technology and technology assistance.

Mrs. Swanson reminded the committee that all incoming freshmen are arriving with digital portfolios. This is nothing new for the younger students.

Connor Barry is worried that students are not going to want to do this.

Mrs. Horton said that she sees that this is exactly what a college would want to know about an applicant. She said: “It showcases who you are, it organizes all of your information into one place, it makes you think reflectively and critically, and it will streamline the college application process for many students.”

Mr. Turmelle reminded the committee that students are able to share their passion via their digital portfolio. He also asked if there was a way for students to save their Freshmen profile & picture- as he believes it will be beneficial for students to see how they have matured in four years of high school.

Nick Mignanelli asked if we can take the department responsibility out of the project and just leave it up to the individual students.

Donnie, speaking for the Math department, said that they want to showcase their freshmen statistics projects. She said that this will validate something that all math students are already doing. She believes that every department has pieces of work that they want to share and showcase.

Ann, speaking for the Science department, said that Science has multiple digital projects where they are already in the labs- and she realizes that all she needs is a bit of assistance uploading the projects into Taskstream.

Peter, speaking for Social Studies, said that students will have had a lot of Social Studies classes by Junior year- and that the US History teachers will help to guide students to what projects they especially want to focus on.

Peter also spoke for the English department. He suggested that the British Literature teacher can help students with writing and reflecting. Some English teachers are already having students write college essays- and these can easily be uploaded to the digital portfolio.

Peter pointed out that a faculty members involvement in the digital portfolio project should be minimal. Teachers will continue to work on curriculum. The Library staff will take care of the digital portfolio part.

Hannah, a freshman, wants more time in Freshmen Seminar to work on digital portfolios. She sees that the digital portfolio part of the freshmen seminar is the most practical and valuable time for the Freshmen.

The Library will become the center of the digital portfolio with Pam, Lena, and the Library Staff all guiding students and offering assistance to faculty.

The committee unanimously agreed that we have a good overall structure for the digital portfolio project.

Peter suggested that a small group of us break off and continue to work on the details of the digital portfolio project.

The SCC supports the digital portfolio as presented. Mr. Parsons informed the SCC that there are budget expenses with this proposal and he has included these expenses in the 2008-09 Budget Proposal that was presented to the Policy & Budget Committee.