**SCC Meeting**

**3 November 2008**

**5:15 p.m.**

**Room 208, PRHS**

**Present:** Peter Gulick, Pam Harland, Gail Poitrast, Emily Kelley, Carol Lurie, Barbara Noyes, Mike Horan, Connor Barry, Bob Price, Bruce Parsons, Janice Prescott, Carolyn Varin, Nick Mignanelli, Kathleen Norris, Gillian Cavezzali, Linda Horton

The subcommittee met on Thursday October 30th to review the data that Gail Poitrast and the Math Department assembled. The subcommittee was specifically looking at Socio-economically disadvantaged students and level movement in Math and English classes.

We are specifically looking at the data to decide: “What are logical and legitimate goals for PRHS?”

By continually assessing and reassessing this kind of data we can monitor over time whether or not we are meeting our goals.

Kathleen Norris stated that NEASC is looking to see that we are continually self-studying and being proactive about issues like this.

We all agreed that the best way to move forward on a major project like this is to meet on/work on one data set at a time. If we look at too much data on any given meeting we run the risk of not making progress on anything.

We also agreed that the subcommittee will continue to meet and gather and evaluate data and then present their findings to the full committee.

Kathleen Norris also reminded all of us that the question we need to ask ourselves is:

“What do all students need to know and have accomplished in order to earn a PRHS diploma?”

We can look at our competencies and proficiencies and see the answer to that question.

Graduates from PRHS who took AP English are going on to college, writing papers, and receiving accolades for their writing skills. We are not looking at eliminating AP English classes, we want every graduate (no matter what English classes they took) to be great writers.

We need to keep in mind that students may all need to learn Algebra (for example), but not all students learn at the same pace. So, some will become proficient in one year while others will become proficient in two years. Are there other classes that we can do this with? (Similar to the Conversational Spanish model)

26% of our students are on free or reduced lunch, so 26% of our financially disadvantaged students should be evenly spread out in all levels of classes.

Even though math is not required for 4 years, we looked at the number of students actually taking math their senior year: 172. We would like to look at what exactly the math department is doing in order to entice so many students to take a 4th year of math. And even though a 4th year of English is required, can we entice students to try some of the different classes (and not have 33% of financially disadvantaged students choosing the lowest level)?

What is it about the social/course structure that encourages students to get out of Honors & college level English during their Junior year. What is it about basic level English that attracts so many students? What kind of expectations do we have for junior level English classes at all levels?

What kinds of things are we doing at PRHS to make literacy/English a school-wide all inclusive thing? (levels don’t matter) Poetry Out Loud & a new Summer Reading Program

We need to monitor how implementing a new summer reading program impacts our current statistics.

We agreed that the Summer Reading Program is something that needs to be looked at.

We noted that there are a lot more choices for seniors to take in the Math Department than in the English Department. Are there some English electives that we could add for juniors & seniors?

Should we look at NECAP’s and socio-economic data, too?

Peter Gulick handed out copies of the book Detracking for Excellence and Equity by Carol Corbett Buris, Delia T. Garrity.

Subcommittee schedule & goals were reviewed.

Carol Lurie and Michael Horan would like to join the subcommittee.
Connor Barry is stepping down from the subcommittee.

The next official SCC meeting will take place on Monday February 2, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. at PRHS.

The subcommittee will reconvene in December to begin gathering and analyzing data.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.