

**SAN MARINO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACADEMICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
January 14, 2015**

Call to Order: Board of Education Member Lisa Link called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the College and Career Center at San Marino High School.

Members present: Brinton Young (Chair), Tom Armbruster, Doug Berry, Alex Cherniss, Shelley Enger, Strefan Fauble, Louise Hindle, Mary Johnson, Lisa Link, Gary McGuigan, Ananth Natarajan, Shelley Ryan, Yu Wen Taylor, Larry Wong.

Other District Officials present: Chris Norgaard

Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2014. **Tom moved to approve the minutes; Brinton seconded it. Minutes approved by consensus.**

Presentation: Future of College Board Testing – Scott Hill, VP of College Board and Chair of Western Region Student Support Group (previously, Senior Program Officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

Comments on the new SAT to be introduced in 2016:

- The format will be more similar to the Common Core exams. For example, there will be no more “SAT words”; students will have to be able to use words in the appropriate context.
- The SAT has been dominated by language arts and math, but the College Board is building in evidence-based questions that will include history and science. For example, students will need to be able to interpret science and social science data tables.
- The essay portion of the SAT, optional but required by UC, will involve analysis of source documents. There will be one common essay prompt that the students will be aware of in advance and will not change from test to test.
- The math portion of the test will cover mainly data analysis and line equations.
- There will be no guessing penalty on the SAT, the test will be computer-administered with a paper-and-pencil option, and the test will be timed.
- There will be no dynamic question selection (e.g., answering a question correctly will not make the next question more difficult.)
- There will be grade level PSATs for 8th-11th grades.
- The College Board will put free test prep online to level the playing field for students.
- There is a 200-page document online covering the SAT.

There has been criticism of the AP US History test – that it covers too much material. In the future, the exam will focus on the topics of liberty, justice, equality and interpreting the US founding documents.

Comment about timing of AP exams – early May test dates leaves down time in last month or the students have to start the school year on August 1.

Question about access to AP classes – what is College Board position on AP access? All 10th graders in an LAUSD school take AP World History. Not all students are afforded opportunity to take AP class. Only half as many black and Latino students (by percentage) who have earned the opportunity to take AP classes have the ability to take them compared to white and Asian students. AP doesn't have a philosophy of open access, though some schools have moved that direction.

Progress Report: Computer Science Curriculum – Brinton Young
(See PDF of Powerpoint slides, attached)

Brinton gave an overview of issues and progress on computer programming curriculum options. Brinton commented on the usefulness of a computer programming background. He discussed Scarsdale school district offerings. He showed some of the presentation by David Siegel to the Scarsdale district (posted online) about modularization (breaking complicated projects into parts) and empowerment (understanding how things work and leveraging that understanding). Being coding literate is different than being technology literate, but a lot of schools are focused on technology literacy. Students should be able to leverage technology to be successful in the modern world.

To make sense of coding, you need to understand how the computer system works. Tom spent 15-20% of his AP Computer Science class on computer systems which is what Scarsdale also does. Brinton described the evolution of computer programming languages. Basic used to be required in many high schools and colleges, and then they turned to applications like MS Office programs.

Coders were writing lines of code and the number of lines was unwieldy (e.g., millions of lines in Windows). To solve this issue, programming became object-oriented – works with modules called classes. It is abstract. Brinton showed an AP exam question about object-oriented programming. Then he showed an Hour of Code program. He also presented information about a PCC Java course and Troy's Tech Pathways' computer track which gives students 4 years of computer programming in high school.

SMHS First Robotics uses AutoCAD for engineer's drawing, LabVIEW and Java for robot control, and other tools for machine vision. It is only 8 weeks each year and students teach each other.

Brinton described several online courses that students can take for credit or not for credit, including Code.org, UC Scout, and a MOOC. Brinton presented some ideas for how to introduce programming at each school level.

Doug Berry – SMHS currently has Introduction to CS course. Code High School is the source, and there are five different modules. Doug and Jamie Linton are planning for an Introduction to CS course next year taught by Jamie Linton. AP Computer Science Principles, a new AP course, will be available in 2016-17, and it is currently being piloted at schools. Doug and Jamie participated in a webinar about the new AP course.

The 3-year plan for development of CS at SMHS is as follows:

2015-16: Introduction to Computer Science

2016-17: Above and AP Computer Science

2017-18: Above and AP Computer Science Principles

Progress Report: Community Outreach on College Preparation Strategy – Yu Wen Taylor

This agenda item was postponed to the February meeting.

Adjournment: Brinton adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

Attachments:

“AAC Minutes 2015-01-14 Computer Curriculum5.pdf”