

**H.S. Graduation Requirements Task Force**  
**February 27, 2007**  
**Minutes**

In attendance: Sherrie Brown, Steve Clarke, Bobbie Jaffe, Gigi Morganti, Michelle Ouilette, Jennie Styer, Phyllis Textor, Alan Doud, Ralph Hayden, Maria Griggs, Lynn Torpey, Scott Smartt, Maria Martin and Andy Mark

- I. The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the February 6, 2007 meeting. There was an error in the minutes. In section I, the minutes should state, “Dr. Kinsley confirmed that he meant our students needed to be ready for a four-year college.”
  
- II. Article in the Bellingham Herald
  - Sherrie learned that there had been an article in the Bellingham Herald that stated, “The plan calls for 60% of 8th graders to take algebra, followed by four years of high school math, by the 2008-2009 school year.” Some members of the graduation task force felt a decision had already been made about students being required to take four years of math. Sherrie clarified that the statement came from goals in the district’s Gates grant. She clarified that there was a difference between a “goal” of having all students take four years of math and students being “required” to take four years of math. She clarified that no decision had been made about the number of years of math prior to the work of the task force. The work of the task force was to make a recommendation about the number of years required for high school graduation that will be reviewed by the school board. The recommendation might be for two, three or four years of math. That recommendation is still to be decided.
  
- III. Information was shared with the group:
  - Sherrie shared three articles that Gigi Morganti had given her from the last Gates meeting in Seattle. They were entitled “If We Raise Standards in High School, Won’t Students Become More Disengaged?” “Do All Students Need Challenging Math in High School?” and “Do All Students Need a College-Prep Curriculum?”
  
- IV. Math Requirements
  - Maria Griggs presented the findings from a meeting the previous day in which middle school and high school math teachers discussed possible math sequences between 8th and 9th grade. Both Lynn Torpey, Department Chair from Squalicum and Scott Smartt, Department from Bellingham were at the meeting and gave feedback regarding the proposal from their departments. Andy Mark, Shuksan Principal, and Maria Martin, Shuksan math teacher, were at the meeting to offer the middle school perspectives to the group.
  
  - After a lengthy discussion, the group tentatively agreed to the following sequences and requirements:
    - All students must complete three (3) high school credits in math to graduate.
    - Students will not receive high school credit for Algebra I-a.
    - Students will receive high school credit for successful completion of Algebra I-b.

1. Math sequence for students meeting or exceeding the math standard as measured by the WASL.

Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II		

**OR**

Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra I-a	Algebra I-b	Geometry	Algebra II	

2. Possible math sequences for students needing extra support to receive credit in Algebra II:
  - **Algebra II-a** and **Algebra II-b** (1.0 credit)

**OR**

- **Extended Algebra II** (1.0 Algebra II credit and .5 math elective credit)
3. Math sequence for students not meeting the math standard as measured by the WASL:
    - Segmented Math or other math support class as designated by the district or State of Washington. Courses may be repeated until students meet standard as measured by the WASL.

Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra I-a	Algebra I-b	Geometry	Math Support (Segmented Math)	Repeat support classes if necessary

- V. Next Steps - The task force will review their tentative math recommendations. They will also discuss world language and science. Jennie Styer has information she has asked to share about a couple of topics.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 6 at 3:00 in Room 112 at Roeder.