Advanced Placement – Weighted Grades

December 13, 2010

1. Responsibility for process and implementation flaws and placing Board and district in this position. I am accountable for this situation.

2. I commend Lee and the AP teaching staff for their hard work in launching such a large number of AP courses with such high enrollment numbers.

3. I applaud ADM students and parents for participating in AP.

4. Grades in AP courses are earned, not bought.

5. Transition is difficult and we obviously have some concerns presented to us regarding the weighted grading policy.

6. Question is what to do now?

7. We believe Advanced Placement and the weighted grades policy pushed our whole system to a higher level.

8. Our focus was on improving access to and participation in AP courses for ADM students, and not just gifted students. It was not on class rank.

9. An extensive study done by Philip Sadler (published in 2010) shows that AP courses ought to get one point in addition, and his research shows that for a student that has a qualifying score on the AP exam should get an extra two points!

10. AP and weighted grades is a common practice in our area. DCG, Waukee, Johnston, DM, Ankeny, etc.

11. Our findings show that college admissions departments have developed processes to deal with the tremendous variety of practices at US High Schools.

12. Recommendation: calculate and include both weighted and unweighted GPA and Class Rank on transcripts.

Provides balanced information to colleges and universities.

ADM students can meet all ADM academic honors via either method.