



# ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICS ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, SUPERVISION OF NEW YORK CITY

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The following are the minutes of the 11-15-07 AMAPS meeting sponsored by Key Curriculum Press at Roma View in Howard Beach.

## Discovering Geometry

Stephen Reinhart from Key Curriculum Press opened the meeting by introducing textbook "Discovering Geometry". He then introduced the guest speaker, Michael Serra, the author of the book and a former math teacher of 32 years. Michael began by discussing the fact that every lesson in his book allows students to discover geometric concepts on their own through hands-on activities.

- Michael Serra demonstrated several activities from his book with the AMAPS members present. He distributed patty paper and gave instructions for a variety of hands-on demonstrations. One of those demonstrations required us to sketch two intersecting lines on a piece of paper (labeling angles) and then place a piece of patty paper on top and trace the two lines free-hand. Everyone was instructed to rotate the paper  $180^\circ$  to see what happens. Michael said that this is one of the first investigations students do in his book. Another demonstration was to use the double-edge straight-edge ruler at our tables to draw parallel lines cut by a transversal and label all angles (Page 128 in his book). Patty paper was used to trace our diagram. He discussed the discoveries that can be used in a high school Geometry class with these diagrams. Another activity was to draw a triangle, label the interior angles, and place the patty paper so the Vertex of angle A is in the middle of the patty paper and trace. Again, he discussed the discoveries from this drawing. Michael Serra also introduced the ruler without any markings, the double-edged straight-edge. He continued with an activity that used a human-sized deck of cards (page 126 in the book). People were invited to the front of the room to each hold one card. One person turned a card  $180^\circ$  and the magician (teacher) figured out which card was turned. Next he discussed Van Hiele levels and explained demonstrations that can be done for each level.
- Michael Serra took questions from AMAPS members in the room - David Linker brought up the fact that the proof becomes important because a proof verifies all cases rather than patty paper showing only one particular case. Michael addressed his comment. Susan Sladowski asked Michael to elaborate on when the concept of a formal proof comes in. Michael Serra said he thinks an "imitation" Geometry has been taught for over 40 years in math classes around the country. He showed a power point slide on students developing proof skills and explained the exercises in his book that help develop these skills (page 226).

## "The U-rated Teacher" - Rosalie David and Jeanette Tomasullo-Morelli

- Rosalie David introduced the topic by discussing materials she prepared titled "Reminders for Unsatisfactory Ratings". She discussed were the fact that 5 or 6 unsatisfactory observation reports are necessary and specifics that should be included in the reports. If a rating is not specified it is rated satisfactory. Only full period observations count when an observation is unsatisfactory. You must give the report to the teacher within one week. A tip is to write the date you gave the report to the teacher because teachers often take a long time to return it signed. Rosalie also discussed the hand-out from NASSP on how to supervise the marginal teacher. Rosalie provided us with a sample unsatisfactory observation report and discussed the report itself.

- Jeanette Tomasullo-Morelli then introduced a package she prepared for AMAPS members and explained every item in the package, including with a checklist for unsatisfactory observation reports. She then read a document from this weeks Principal's weekly (memo#2) which directly relates to this topic. Celia Foster said that there is also a document called "the appeal process". She explained that form letters are included – if a teacher is untenured they only need a 30 day letter. This package is included on the DOE website. It was suggested that a link be put on the AMAPS website.
- Rosalie and Jeanette answered questions on the U-rated teacher from AMAPS members in the meeting.

#### **Administrative Matters:**

- An announcement was made of Touro College's ELL professional development opportunities.
- Vice President of NYSAMS announced that there is a vacancy for NYC representative. She also asked for nominations for Math Educators Hall of Fame.
- Allison Witty spoke about the dues and Susan pointed out that paid members are listed on the back of the agenda.
- Maura from the Teacher Academy at CUNY (9 campuses) spoke about the program of developing future teachers. She encouraged us to inform our students who excel in math and science.

#### **Membership Concerns:**

Susan Sladowski facilitated a discussion amongst AMAPS members on concerns.

- John Wolfe brought up a member concern: He wants to know what AMAPS members are doing with the Integrated Algebra course – 1 year course or 2 year course. Members spoke about what they are doing in their individual schools.
- School Report cards were brought up and the number of credits and number of Regents students took. Rosalie said that summer school did not count on the current progress report.
- Jeanette discussed the important matters for Math AP's from Principal's Weekly and from Figures newsletter.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rhonda Pekow, November 19, 2007