

Mercer Island School District
Instructional Materials Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Board Room

Minutes

I. Instructional Materials Committee Policy & Charges

After introductions, the committee reviewed Administrative Procedures #2019P so as to be clear about and their role in the Instructional Materials approval process.

II. Instructional Materials Requests

- a. *Earth Science*, 13th Edition, 2012 & Laboratory Classroom Teaching Materials
Teachers: Diane Nielsen & Patricia Weston
Class: ESS 101, UW Geology in the High School
MIHS, Grades 11-12

Diane Nielsen and Patty Weston presented their textbook, *Earth Science*, 13th edition which will be used in the UW Geology in the High School Science class next fall. The class has the same learning goals, topics and lab materials as the UW class.

The textbook was reviewed by five students. It was also reviewed by three teachers for gender bias, racial/ethnic bias, etc.

This textbook is frequently used in the UW in the High School course.

Students reported they liked the ease of use regarding this book.

All books reviewed showed some gender/racial/ethnic bias, but that will be offset by using supplementary materials.

Action: The Instructional Materials Committee recommended unanimously this book be approved for adoption.

- b. *ZhenBang!*, Tiffany Fang
EMC Publishing, 2011
Teachers: Zhousu He & Alice Chang
Class: Chinese I, II, & III
MIHS, Grades 9-12

Zhousu He and Alice Chang presented *ZhenBang!* which will be used in Chinese Language classes next fall. (ZhenBang means "very good" in English.)

The same book can be used in Chinese I, II and III for 9th to 12th grades.

Their current textbook has been in use since 1998.

They contacted three major publishers and chose to review the books used in the U.S. Parents wanted to be able to tutor their children at home. They wanted a text with good website resources, clear grammar, a variety of activities, and the ability to review vocabulary themselves.

Students liked the pictures and illustrations in *ZhenBang!* as they helped to hold their interest. Some books had characters only -- not great to practice pronunciations.

ZhenBang! has an excellent vocabulary review and it comes in an iPad version.

Teachers recommend getting the iPad app along with textbooks for the classroom.

Some students still prefer to have the textbook.

Action: The Instructional Materials Committee recommended unanimously this book be approved for adoption.

c. *MindUp/Mindful Schools*

Hawn Foundation/Mindful Schools

Scholastic/Mindful Schools, 2011/2011

Island Park School, Grade K Field Test

Sivie Suckerman MIYFS counselor at Island Park presented *The Mind Up Curriculum/Mindful Schools* from the Goldie Hawn Foundation.

The curriculum focuses on social/emotional learning in the classroom.

Sivie plans to blend the two curricula and teach the lessons during the enrichment portion of cycle.

Mindful Schools is a certificated program that only Sivie will be able to teach. However, she would like to offer professional development on the *Mind Up* curriculum for Kindergarten teachers so they are able to follow up afterwards in the classroom.

Kindergarten teachers and parents who reviewed the curriculum are very enthusiastic about it. Parents are willing to volunteer to help next year.

The lessons are 15 minutes long, although a small lesson could be taught in 5 minutes to get classroom focused.

This will be a field test next year at Island Park.

Action: The Instructional Materials Committee recommended unanimously this curriculum be approved for a field test during the 2013-2014 school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.