

Mercer Island School District
Learning Services
4160 86th AVE SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-236-3330

Meeting Notes

January 19, 2016

Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Fred Rundle, Director of Learning Services
Note taker: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

Members:

Leah Akins
Ilene Barnwell
Sally Bartow
David Baxter
Carol Best
Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Molly Fort
Rebecca Hedlund
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Lori Otto Punke
Anne Rubin
Jessica Weinman
Patty Weston
Brigit White

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.

***The Puberty Workshop: HIV/AIDS* by Puberty Workshop, 2012**

Nova Williams, MISD Learning Services Coordinator, presented the video *The Puberty Workshop: HIV/AIDS* for adoption as core materials. Nova stated her feeling that the video currently used in fifth grade classrooms is out of date. So she found the *Puberty Workshop: HIV/AIDS* video, which is approved by Washington State and endorsed by OSPI and Seattle and King County Public Health. Washington State requires HIV/AIDS education as part of public school health education. Nova found the video kid-friendly, medically accurate, and short—only ten minutes long.

According to The Puberty Workshop, “the video uses age-appropriate language to illustrate how HIV is transmitted. Easy to follow animation shows how HIV attacks the immune system and how it can develop into AIDS. Two on-camera physicians answer kids' questions about AIDS transmission

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and prevention. The video clearly states that any type of sexual activity with another person is not appropriate at this age.”

Nova admitted there is no perfect tool to teach fifth graders about HIV and Aids. Even with the video, teachers should further address issues using talking points. She appreciated the video's attention to the emotional component in dealing with HIV and Aids. It stresses not to judge anyone with a disability or disease. This is a concept Nova believes we should reinforce in today's world. Myths about AIDS are also discussed. For instance, the video stresses that it is fine to hug and hold hands with someone who has HIV or AIDS.

Nova stated that the pilot teachers gave the video mixed reviews. Most liked it and found it accessible. Several expressed concern that the message about choosing NOT to engage in risky behavior is too weak. Nova disagreed, saying she felt the message is appropriately addressed.

Some concerns expressed by IMC committee members were:

- There may not be enough repetition explaining how HIV is transmitted.
- There may not be enough explanation about how common it is to get HIV. Maybe add that to suggestions.
- There is not enough information about how getting a tattoo can put a person at risk of HIV transmission.
- More supplemental material may be needed.

Fred suggested that these and other concerns might require a follow-up vehicle, such as talking points, for teachers to refer to.

One member asked how long human growth and development has been part of fifth grade curriculum. Fred replied that it has been required for many years. For fifth graders, it is typically covered in the spring as part of the final science unit. STD's have been part of the fifth grade health curriculum for many years in many states.

Vote: There was a motion to recommend to the Superintendent approval of *The Puberty Workshop: HIV/AIDS* for adoption as supplementary materials. The motion was seconded. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

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Policy 2019: Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials—review of proposed changes

Fred explained that the Mercer Island School District is governed by policies and procedures. Many of these policies begin as federal and state law before becoming district policies. WSSDA (Washington State School Directors' Association) is the big umbrella for school boards, helping translate the laws into district policies.

WSSDA recently recommended an update to Policy 2019. Fred asked members for help in updating our policy as a result. He asked members to email him with thoughts and concerns about the proposed changes. He explained that this is an administrative policy, so the school board doesn't have to approve it. But he wants to take the changes to the board meeting on February 26 to inform the board about them.

Some other changes Fred proposed are:

- To create forms that can be filled out on the computer.
- To give the Women and Minority report a politically correct title.

A member asked if school plays are approved by the IMC. Fred replied that concerns about controversial plays have been hashed out at the building level. It is, however, a process the committee might flesh out in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.