

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2017

Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Fred Rundle, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services • Secretary: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

Present:

Ahisha Avant
David Baxter
Carol Best
Rebecca Hedlund
Kristin Kim
Lori Otto Punke
Anne Rubin
Rohan Tatum
Jessica Weinman
Patty Weston
Brigit White

Absent:

Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Meghan Kelley
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Lisa Stewart
Scott Weiss

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

Being a Writer and Guided Spelling – Curriculum materials for Grades K-5 Writing

Written by: *Being a Writer* ; *Guided Spelling*: Katherine K. Newman and John Shefebine

Published by: Center for Collaborative Classroom. *Being a Writer*, 2014. *Guided Spelling*, 2009

Proposal submitted by: Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services, and Jessie Dye, 3rd grade teacher at Northwood, on behalf of the K-5 Writing Adoption Committee

Nova began the presentation with an explanation of the proposal and an overview of the process. The *Being a Writer* program provides a writing-process approach. It weaves together academic and social-emotional learning for K-5 students and professional development for teachers into daily instruction. *Guided Spelling* is an add-on to help students learn spelling patterns.

The K-5 Writing Adoption Committee spent last year looking at about eight curricula. They whittled them down to *Being a Writer* and *Guided Spelling*, which they then opened for parent review. The committee felt that *Being a Writer* would go well with Bookshop Common Core. They liked the authentic texts that talk about how to write in different ways. Jessie shared some of the positive feedback the committee has received. The curriculum is easy to follow and provides flexible ways for students to express themselves. The lesson notes are useful, and online access is ample and user-friendly. The goal in the first year is to follow sequential recommendation and decide how best to integrate the new materials with existing curriculum.

Vote: Ahisha Avant motioned to approve *Being a Writer and Guided Spelling* as core material for Grades K-5 Writing starting in the 2017-18 school year. Kristin Kim seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

Bring Science Alive! – Curriculum materials for K-5 Science

Written by: TCI staff utilizing a Science Advisory Board.

Published by: 2015. All online materials are updated as necessary to reflect improved practice and changing scientific knowledge.

Proposal submitted by: Jennifer Wright, Executive Director of Learning Services, on behalf of the K-5 Science Review Committee.

Jennifer began the presentation with an explanation of the proposal and an overview of the process. *Bring Science Alive!* Is a comprehensive K-5 science curriculum based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that builds on the best practices of science education for elementary students. The materials provide foundational content, engaging activities, assessment materials, support for struggling learners, and extensions in a technology rich environment.

The science materials currently in use were adopted over 15 years ago. During a 2012 curriculum review, there seemed to be a lack of new curriculum available. At that time, they decided to wait until curriculum was designed to align with NGSS, which are the adopted standards in Washington State.

In this recent review of *Bring Science Alive*, they consulted with other districts. They visited Tahoma School District, which is now in its 2nd year using the curriculum and will be a helpful resource. *Bring Science Alive!* is keen on inquiry and critical thinking. It has more pure science content than the science kits currently in use. All teacher materials are online, a fact which one committee member loves because it means one less book in her classroom.

Several committee members discussed their experiences teaching sample lessons this year. They reported intrigued children holding in-depth discussions. Students were able to access text and engage in hands-on activities. Each lesson has an assessment. One teacher discovered while correcting assessments that her students had learned a lot.

Jennifer stated that a rolling adoption is expected to take two to three years before full implementation. That will develop expertise at each grade level, creating team leaders in the implementation.

Vote: Patty Weston motioned to adopt *Bring Science Alive!* as core material for K-5 Science starting in the 2017-18 school year. David Baxter seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

Review of draft meeting minutes

The draft minutes for the March 21st and May 16th meetings were reviewed. Lori Otto Punke motioned to approve the minutes for both meetings. Anne Rubin seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

Fred offered his appreciation to those members who have finished their terms. He noted the importance of the Instructional Materials Committee. It holds the system accountable to standards set by our community and school board. We expect the best curriculum so our students get the best and our teachers can do their best.

He wished everyone a great summer and announced that those returning will hear from him in August.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.