

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

Instructional Materials Committee

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

Present:

Jamey Balousek
Mary Jo Budzius
Alyson Burks
Roxane Chan
Renee DeBock
Kimberly Griggs
Joseph Gushanas
Ryan Hsi
Tony Ive
Kati McConn
Mia Shi
Kim Thomas
Alexandra Weil
Vivian Zhou

Absent:

Carly Adams
Lisa Bienstock
Adil Chaudrey
Anna Fein
Jill Kelly
Erica Ottesen
Sophie Prock
Kelsey Sims
Beilan Wang

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm.

Feedback on *The Fun Home* pilot

At the October IMC meeting, MIHS English teachers proposed *The Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, a graphic memoir by Alison Bechdel, as pilot material for the Gr. 12 Race, Identity, & Representation in Comparative Lit (RIR) class. Fred asked the teachers to return with feedback at today's meeting. Daniela Melgar and Kati McConn, along with several students, shared their thoughts. One student remarked that it was the most powerful graphic novel he'd ever read. It provided opportunities for valuable conversations about dysfunctional family dynamics. Students are aware that these situations exist in real life. Confronting the issues and discussing them equips students to interact in the world. Another student remarked that it was the most impactful piece of literature she has read in school and appreciated the opportunity to read it. A third student said that it was one of the best books she has read, and noted that 11th and 12th graders read many books that cover dark topics. She feels that the school environment is a good place to process these issues. It is easier than dealing with them alone.

Students read *The Fun Home* in small reading groups. The teachers feel that students want to have meaty conversations and are willing to delve into them on a deep and thoughtful level. The book does include some sexual scenes. Before reading it, the teachers told the students there would be some explicit images. Students were given the option to opt-out if they wanted. One student remarked that the sexual images shown in *The Fun Home* were minimal when compared to written descriptions of sex in other books. Another student did not think that the sexual images qualified as pornographic.

Although the book is often taught in college, one student said it would be limiting to confine it only to college, stating that many 12th graders can handle this subject matter. There is value in strenuous academics that push the boundaries of comprehension.

At the end of the discussion, Fred reminded the committee that *The Fun Home* is being piloted only for this year. If it does not come back to the IMC as a proposal for core material, it will be removed from the class reading list.

Mercer Island School District
Learning Services

***They Called Us Enemy* – Graphic Memoir**

IMS Grade 7 Language Arts – **Core Instructional Material**

Written by: George Takei

Published by: IDW Publisher, 2019

Proposal submitted by: IMS 7th Grade Teaching Staff: Alexis Guerrero, Jessica Lee, Cait Motter, Tessa Snow, Beth Williams

The full team of teachers making this proposal presented *They Called Us Enemy* for consideration as core instructional material in Grade 7 Language Arts.

They Called Us Enemy is about George Takei's experience in the Japanese Internment camps. The team sought a historical memoir to complement their fiction and historical fiction novels. Reading about the lived experience has a profound impact on how students view historical events. Additionally, kids love graphic novels, a genre that has moved well beyond the comic-book level. The teachers will give lessons on analyzing visual text. Many IMS students have family members that were in internment camps. This might provide a way for them to process what happened. The more students explore the injustices from the past the more they will be able to act as the upstander in the moments of conflict, both small and large. Students will think critically to ensure history doesn't repeat itself.

Vote: Joseph Gushanas motioned to approve *They Called Us Enemy* as core instructional material for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year and beyond. Kati McConn seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

***Economics (Sixth Edition)* – Textbook**

MIHS Career and Technical Education (CTE)/College and Career Readiness (CCR) Gr. 10-12 AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics – **Core Instructional Material**

Written by: Paul Krugman and Robin Wells

Published by: Worth Publishing, Macmillan Learning: New York, 2021

Proposal submitted by: MIHS teachers: John Stafford, Social Studies and Career and Technical Education (CTE), Laurie Schwartzberg, Math and CTE, Jennifer McLellan, MISD CCR Coordinator

The textbook currently in use in the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics is 20 years old. *Economics* by Krugman and Wells has many editions and enjoys a strong reputation. Princeton professors use *Economics* as introductory material. It's considered entry-level for college and is dense and serious-minded but accessible. Well-organized and covering a vast array of topics, the textbook aligns with OSPI requirements and the AP Central teaching topics. There are graphs and stories that relate the material to current events involving economics. Stafford stated that Krugman, a respected Nobel laureate economist, is liberal but not polemic in any way. He feels that this textbook provides a balanced presentation.

Vote: Kati McConn motioned to approve *Economics (Sixth Edition)* by Krugman and Wells as core instructional material for MIHS Career and Technical Education (CTE)/College and Career Readiness (CCR) Gr. 10-12 AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics for the 2021-22 school year and beyond. Kimberly Griggs seconded the motion. No abstentions. The motion passed.

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Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course – Textbook

MIHS Career and Technical Education (CTE)/College and Career Readiness (CCR) Gr. 10-12 AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics – **Supplemental Instructional Material**

Written by: Margaret Ray and David Anderson

Published by: Sapling Plus, 2019

Proposal submitted by: MIHS teachers: John Stafford, Social Studies and Career and Technical Education (CTE), Laurie Schwartzberg, Math and CTE, Jennifer McLellan, MISD CCR Coordinator

John Stafford explained that *Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course* will augment the Krugman text, making it more accessible to students in both AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics. The College Board recommends this textbook for their AP Economics courses. He will use this textbook to explain the concepts and to illustrate their significance in understanding modern economic systems. This text is especially helpful for AP test preparation.

Vote: Alex Weil motioned to approve *Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course* as supplemental instructional material for MIHS Career and Technical Education (CTE)/College and Career Readiness (CCR) Gr. 10-12 AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics for the 2021-22 school year and beyond. Tony Ive seconded the motion. No abstentions. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM.