

# Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2019

## Instructional Materials Committee

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

### Present:

Lindzie Adamson  
Sheri Blumenthal  
Kelsey Cochran  
Lauren Dolby  
Melissa Edling  
Jenny Foster  
Brian Hampsh  
Kristin Kim  
Creighton Laughary  
Matt Lavigne  
Kathy Shaner  
Justin Talmadge  
Rohan Tatum

### Absent:

Ahisha Avant  
Jackie Brown  
Molly Harnish  
Channing Martin  
Melanie Ready  
Lisa Stewart  
Kelly Tran  
Scott Weiss  
Wenge Zhang

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm. Fred welcomed participants to the third and final meeting of the year.

### ***Entre Culturas: Textbook and digital platform***

IMS and MIHS Gr. 7-12 Spanish 1, 2, 3 **core** instructional material for 2019-2020 and beyond

**Written by:** Ann Mar, Robert L. Davis, Maritza Sloan, George Watson-López, Paulina Carrión, Megan Cory, Catherine Schwenkler, Deborah Espitia, Pamela Garcia, Jennifer Cornell, Isabel Vázquez Gil

**Published by:** Wayside Publishing, 2017

**Proposal submitted by:** IMS and MIHS Spanish Teachers: Kelsey Cochran, Lara Fitzgerald, Evelyn Jiménez, Rebecca Williams, Kyla Trujillo, Osvaldo Ojeda, Rocio Chemeledos

Kelsey Cochran presented this proposal for a core curriculum Spanish series. The series will teach the language from beginning to intermediate Spanish. She noted several exceptional qualities of this series, including:

- There are cognitive exercises that engage students, especially at lower levels.
- The teaching strategies are clear to the teacher.
- There is a focus on "Interculturality" - an awareness of students' own cultures and those of Spanish-speaking communities.
- There is a flexible and productive online portal, including an app.

Kelsey noted several downsides with the series and suggested solutions:

- The web platform has limited Schoology and Skyward integration. Wayside Publishing is working to improve that.
- There is too much material in each book to finish one book per the corresponding level. Thus, classes will end up "straddling" books across levels, which is common to most curriculum series.
- Technology that is referenced in the book may become dated. Online materials will become available to move away from textbook reliance.

**Vote:** Creighton Laughary motioned to approve *Entre Culturas* as core material for IMS and MIHS Gr. 7-12 Spanish 1, 2, 3 beginning in the 2019-2020 school year in this sequence: Spanish 1 in 2019-2020, Spanish 2 in 2020-2021, and Spanish 3 in 2021-2022. Jenny Foster seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

***American History: Connecting With The Past, 15e AP Edition, Updated: New course textbook (hardback) with six year digital subscription to e-text and online supplementals***

MIHS, Gr. 11 AP US History **core** instructional material for the 2019-2020 school year

**Written by:** Alan Brinkley

**Published by:** McGraw Hill, 2017

**Proposal submitted by:** MIHS Social Studies AP US History: Ed Puchalla, David Willecke, John Stafford.

Ed Puchalla began the presentation by stating that the current textbook (2007 ed.) does not reflect College Board revisions to the AP U.S. History course. To many students, the current book comes across as a wall of text. The new textbook contains good graphics well integrated within the text. The main idea, concepts, and supporting concepts in the new book are clear to students. The balanced narrative gives different perspectives.

Included in the proposal are an e-text and smart book with adaptive testing. This will enable students to take quizzes on the material they are reading and check their understanding. The Social Studies team is working with the tech department to fix some problems with the adaptive features. Students still prefer to read the hard text as opposed to online.

**Note:** Kathy Shaner motioned to approve *American History: Connecting With The Past, 15e AP Edition, Updated* as core instructional material for MIHS, Gr. 11 AP US History for the 2019-2020 school year. Kristin Kim seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

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***Calculus for AP: Textbook***

MIHS Gr. 11-12 (some sophomores but not many) Intro to Calculus, Advanced Calculus, and AP Calculus **core** instructional material for the 2019-2020 school year

**Written by:** Stewart and Kokoska

**Published by:** Cengage, 2019

**Proposal submitted by:** Calculus Textbook Adoption Committee: Kim Schjelderup, Kate Yoder, Justin Talmadge, Albert Lam (student), Alex Baker

Kim Schjelderup and Kate Yoder presented the proposal. The new textbook aligns with the AP Calculus Frameworks for both AB and BC Calculus as defined by College Board. The book is student-friendly and provides resources for the teacher. Of particular benefit to students are areas in the margins that talk about common calculus errors. There are summaries of all steps of a problem which will be especially helpful for the intro student. Stewart is a popular calculus textbook author due to his approach, readability, multiple representations, and online resources. The addition of Kokoska (second author and former Chief Reader for AP Calculus) is a bonus for students as the textbook supports the overarching expectations of the AP Exam. It provides avenues for students to practice the types of problems they will encounter on the exam.

**Note:** Justin Talmadge motioned to approve *Calculus for AP* as core instructional material for MIHS Gr. 11-12 Calculus Courses for 2019-2020 and beyond. Kelsey Cochran seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

**Mercer Island School District  
Learning Services**

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***The Best We Could Do: Graphic novel memoir***

Crest, English/Social Studies Gr. 9-12 **pilot** instructional material for the fall of 2019

**Written by:** Thi Bui

**Published by:** Abrams Books, 2017

**Proposal submitted by:** Patrick Rigby and Michael Harper, Crest teachers, and Sarah Shannon, Paraeducator

*The Best We Could Do* is an intimate look at one family's journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to new lives in America. In this age of visual literacy, the Crest team chose this graphic novel for their Gr. 9-12 English Social Studies block. It will provide content related to World History, American History, and contemporary issues.

Students will move chapter by chapter, with each chapter broken up by a different theme. The novel is accessible to a variety of reading levels, so 14-19-year-olds can all access the same text. There is a scene involving difficult subject matter around a birth. But the team feels that within the right context, high school students are mature enough to handle such issues.

**Vote:** Jenny Foster motioned to approve *The Best We Could Do* as pilot material for Crest Gr. 9-12 English/Social Studies for the fall of 2019. Kathy Shaner seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.