

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2017

Instructional Materials Committee

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

Present:

Ahisha Avant
David Baxter
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Kristin Kim
Lori Otto Punke
Patty Weston

Absent:

Carol Best
Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Rebecca Hedlund
Meghan Kelley
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Anne Rubin
Lisa Stewart
Rohan Tatum
Jessica Weinman
Scott Weiss
Brigit White

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 pm.

Making Meaning – Reading materials for Grades 3-5 HiCap

Written by: Lisa Constantini, Dennis Binkley, and support staff

Published by: Center for Collaborative Classrooms, 2015 (3rd edition)

Proposal submitted by: David Baxter, West Mercer HiCap teacher; Carol Best, West Mercer Principal; Jenny McAlaine, Lakeridge Principal; Fred Rundle, Assistant Superintendent; Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services

Making Meaning will replace the out of print *Pegasus* core reading program.

David shared that *Making Meaning* struck the committee's interest for several reasons. It allows for individual student choice and has flexible adaption to strategies. It fits well with MISD's 2020 Vision. *Pegasus* was a novel based study. *Making Meaning* is a robust and accessible blend of fiction and nonfiction. It presents key lessons using picture books. David explained that graphics improve comprehension. He cited as an example a picture of steerage immigrants crossing the Atlantic on a steamer.

David shared the HiCap teachers' excitement about the *Making Meaning* reading program. But there are some limitations. There is nothing that addresses disabilities, and electronic media is sparse. Supplemental materials will be required to meet these needs.

Fred added background on the selection of *Making Meaning*, noting that Mondo's *Bookshop Common Core* Literacy Program was the first choice. *Making Meaning's* breadth of student materials is lesser than those of *Bookshop Common Core*. *Making Meaning's* professional development opportunities are slim. But they will suffice for the small number of HiCap teachers. *Making Meaning* does align to our comprehensive literacy model giving students many opportunities.

Highly capable students may not be as adept in negotiating social norms. *Making Meaning* contains an active element of social/emotional learning.

Fred announced that he and David Baxter would abstain from voting since they have been involved in the adoption of *Making Meaning*.

Vote: Lori Otto Punke motioned to approve *Making Meaning* as core reading materials for Grades 3-5 HiCap starting in the 2017-18 school year. Mark Jergens-Zmuda seconded the motion. David Baxter and Fred Rundle abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Fred shared that the Superintendent will review the material. He may then make a recommendation to the board.

Horticulture Today – Textbook for MIHS Science, CCR, or Crest: Horticulture and Advanced Horticulture grades 9-12

Written by: Jodi Songer Riedel and Elizabeth Driscoll

Published by: Goodheart-Wilcox, 2017

Proposal submitted by: Lois Sargent on behalf of the Horticulture Textbook Adoption Team – Crest Learning Center/MIHS

Lois Sargent proposed to use *Horticulture Today* as the core instructional resource for the Horticulture class. It will replace the current Horticulture textbook, published in 2007. Lois referenced the district's horticulture frameworks to show how broad the frameworks are. She said that in our nation right now approximately 60,000 new agriculture jobs are being added. This book introduces students to new career possibilities. She added that some of our students could go into the field right out of high school.

In this comprehensive book, lessons are in one place, so the teacher doesn't have to cherry-pick from different sources. Lois likes the abundance of photographs that enrich discussions. She also shared several positive parent and student reviews of the book.

She cautioned that the book's readability is at high school level. Special needs students will need help accessing parts of the book. They can use the book as a supplement rather than as regular text. But the class is very tactile for special needs students. Lois strongly supports the inclusiveness of the Horticulture class.

She shared that the book is so new that electronic resources are still in development.

Vote: Patty Weston motioned to adopt *Horticulture Today* as core instructional resource for the MIHS Horticulture class starting in the 2017-18 school year. David Baxter seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

Review of meeting notes:

Mark Jergens-Zmuda voted to approve the *January 17, 2017* meeting notes. Kristin Kim seconded. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

Patty Weston voted to approve the *February 28, 2017* special meeting notes with amendments. Mark Jergens-Zmuda seconded. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

Fred provided an update on the progress of *That's a Family*, a film, through the adoption process. He also discussed items that might be on the agenda at the next meeting in May.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.