

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2017

Instructional Materials Committee

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

Present:

Ahisha Avant
David Baxter
Rebecca Hedlund
Kristin Kim
Anne Rubin
Rohan Tatum
Jessica Weinman
Scott Weiss
Patty Weston
Brigit White

Absent:

Carol Best
Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Meghan Kelley
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Lori Otto Punke
Lisa Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

SpringBoard – Curriculum materials for Grade 6 Language Arts

Written by: Betty Barnett, Joely Negedly, JoEllen Victoreen, Doug Waugh, and Nina Wooldridge

Published by: CollegeBoard, 2017

Proposal submitted by: Mary Jo Budzius, IMS Co-Principal, Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services; 6th Grade Social Studies Review Committee: Becky Mullvain, IMS Tech TOSA, and 6th grade Language Arts teachers Kathleen Cifu, Bruce Harrington, Melissa Gaffney, Alice Larkin, Emily Mills, Russel Skurski, and Janet Taylor

Mary Jo Budzius, Kathleen Cifu, Melissa Gaffney, Alice Larkin, and Janet Taylor presented the proposal.

SpringBoard is research-based and common core aligned. This will help students talk about the curriculum using the same language. Mary Jo remarked that the writing instruction is strong and she saw more growth in students in that area this year. She feels that another strength is the academic language.

Presenters shared that after piloting the program this year, they feel *SpringBoard* is a powerful foundation. They spoke about how *SpringBoard* gives teachers and students resources and differentiation strategies. Students become competent writers, more critical thinkers, and better editors of their writing.

Mary Jo did state that some units are not as strong as others. Another challenge is a lack of iPad compatibility. One possible solution is to scan sections to Schoology for use on iPads. The team looks forward to improving that and other issues next year. The team hopes a *SpringBoard* trainer will be on hand next year to help with questions about the many resources.

Vote: David Baxter motioned to approve *SpringBoard* as core material for Grade 6 Language Arts starting in the 2017-18 school year. Kristin Kim seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

World History: Great Civilizations – Textbook for IMS 6th Grade Social Studies

Written by: Hiebert, Fredrick, Thornton, Christopher and McInerney, Jeremy et al.

Published by: Cengage in partnership with National Geographic

Proposal submitted by: Mary Jo Budzius, IMS Co-Principal, Fred Rundle, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services; 6th Grade Social Studies Review Committee: Kathleen Cifu, Melissa Gaffney, Bruce Harrington, Alice Larkin, Emily Mills, and Janet Taylor

Mary Jo Budzius, Kathleen Cifu, Melissa Gaffney, Alice Larkin, and Janet Taylor presented the proposal.

Fred mentioned that several of the participants in this proposal, including himself, have been involved in the grade 6-12 social studies review. He explained that they didn't set out to review new texts but rather the full scope and sequence of outcome for students. This process evolved into a need to look at the 6th-grade social studies text.

Melissa announced that the book currently in use in 6th-grade social studies is quite old. One copy bears the handwritten name of a member of the 6th-grade social studies committee, from when she was an IMS student 17 years ago.

One of the goals of the committee was to branch out from Euro-centric versions of world history. They felt that students weren't learning about all civilizations. They also wondered how teachers could make 3000-year-old civilizations meaningful to today's kids.

After exhaustive research, they narrowed their choices down to five texts. Cengage won partly due to its association with National Geographic. The reasons were many. The exploratory aspect of National Geographic coaxes curiosity and cultivates the idea that students should be explorers. Also, the outstanding photography. Presenters described the book's photos as stunning. One presenter cited brain research suggesting that human brains are changing. Student brains today are stimulated by visuals. The book also offers greater breadth in an engaging way. It shows how events from long ago can have current-day ramifications. Another positive feature is a focus on building global citizens and encouraging empathy.

The entire text is online as well, so students don't have to carry around a heavy book. The vast online resources are regularly updated. They include video clips of archeologists at work, biographies, and events that are happening right now in places the book references.

Though the readability level is listed as 11th grade, one team member argued that it's more like 6th-7th grade. Students were said to be excited by the book. They wanted to turn the pages and see more.

Vote: Scott Weiss motioned to adopt *World History: Great Civilizations* as core material for Grade 6 Social Studies starting in the 2017-18 school year. Rebecca Hedlund seconded the motion. Fred Rundle abstained. The motion passed.

Review of draft meeting minutes:

The review was tabled until the next meeting. The draft minutes for the March 21st and May 16th meetings will be reviewed at that time.

Fred announced that at the next meeting, on May 30, 2017, we will talk about committee membership for the upcoming school year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.