

ELA Textbook Adoption Meeting Minutes
3/23/2017
3:30 Professional Development Center

Members Present: Judi Healey, Karen Hurley, Wendy Sinnette, Wendy Senour, Holly Russell, Sugi Sorensen, Ellen Multari, Anais Wenn, Mandy Redfern, Jenny Franz, Rachel Bachmuth, Kim Slattery, Carrie Hetzel, Stephanie Boayes, Jamie Lewsadder, Laurie Hopkins, Lori Arbucci, Emily Blaney, Puja Gaska, Heather Lhotka, Jennifer Riegler and Elmina Baghdaserians.

Welcome and Introductions:

Meeting started at 3:33 p.m.

Mrs. Wenn thanked all for attending this meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

Goal of the meeting: Mrs. Wenn announced that teachers have been reviewing and piloting ELA materials all year and the time has come to make a decision. She stated that the goal of the meeting was to come up with a recommendation for ELA adoption to be taken to the Governing Board in April. She mentioned that two readings are required for an adoption; therefore, the decision must be made soon.

Meeting Norms: Mrs. Wenn handed out suggested meeting norms and asked the committee to review them. No suggestions were made to revise the norms and all members agreed with the norms as presented.

Parent Input on Textbooks: Mrs. Wenn reported that four parents reviewed the materials. All parents chose Wonders as their #1 choice for grades K-5. For grade 6, two parents chose California Collections and 1 chose Journeys. Two parent volunteers were selected to represent GATE and general education learners, but no parent volunteers to represent English Language Learners and Special Needs students applied. Principals reached out to parents who would be willing to serve in this capacity and were successful. Four parents were present at the meeting representing different type of learners on the committee.

Teacher Feedback on Textbooks

Mrs. Wenn invited each grade level representative (or more, if more than one person was present) to share their findings on each of the publishers. All information was recorded on the whiteboard.

National Geographic (Kindergarten only)

Strengths:

- Engaging with real pictures
- Variety of fiction and nonfiction
- NGSS and SS aligned
- Streamlined

- Good pagination
- Alpha chants
- Students enjoyed readers

Weaknesses:

- Not aligned with Fountas & Pinnell

California Collections (6th grade only)

Strengths:

- Breath of fresh air
- Can keep core lit
- Rigorous
- Liked the consumables
- Engaging
- Rich texture
- Superior quality of writing
- Strong performance assessments
- Fascinating topics
- Persuasive essay writing
- Allows for character lessons
- Clustering components with character skills
- Strong poetry component
- Strong online component
- Reteaching materials
- Age appropriate
- Audio option

The only weakness reported was that there were not many online short videos.

Wonders

Strengths:

- Great motivational stories
- Multiple weekly similar genres
- Practice book-good reading skills
- Introduces themes
- Good technology resources/online component
- Pacing calendar
- Differentiation with technology
- Close readers with text, allowed for annotation
- Engaging stories- weekly unit design, supported reading skills
- Rigorous but developmentally appropriate
- Assessments- applications to new ideas
- Liked workbook organization
- Separate reading and writing books
- Aligned with DOK levels

- Theme - linked texts
- Writing samples with tests
- Self-checks and questions
- Balanced fiction with nonfiction
- Articles and comics
- Summarize, write, connections
- Integrated SS/Sci
- Literature circle activities
- Well rounded

Weaknesses:

- Requires 3 to 3.5 hours of instruction in Kindergarten
- Less simple to modify/breakdown
- Less visually modern
- Online component is confusing
- Leveled readers- less useful/effective
- Overwhelming components
- Too many resources
- Complicated to integrate
- Nonfiction stories too difficult
- Rigor of spelling program
- Cold read assessments
- Overwhelming expository texts
- Too many components-concern with core lit
- Less rigorous stories
- Don't like illustrations
- Too many ELD components that would not be used
- Lacks enrichment
- Close read is busy work
- Not enough grammar
- Practice book not engaging
- Long assessments
- Limited spelling
- Limited writing and skill practice

Journeys

Strengths:

- Modern themes
- Motivational stories
- Integrate core lit with this program
- Teacher Edition - high DOK level
- Whole group and small group activities
- Strong vocabulary components
- Pre-read activities
- Grammar component
- Short lessons are easy to teach
- One textbook
- Spelling lists

- Students liked the stories
- Reading library
- Teaches reading and comprehension
- Leveled readers aligned with F & P
- Aligned with 5th grade SS
- Positive vocabulary development
- Workbook ok for Kindergarten
- Familiar components
- Differentiation
- Figurative language, personification
- Robust technology component
- Close reading text “right there”
- Enjoyable stories, challenging
- Liked the resources
- Easy to navigate
- Parent friendly
- Focus on grammar
- Integrated writing
- Font size appropriate for special needs students
- Integrated writing
- Glossary and pacing guide in student workbook
- Manageable
- CCSS language-use text as evidence
- Good discussions
- Strong vocabulary
- Text to text connections

Weaknesses:

- Fiction and nonfiction stories not as interesting and engaging for 6th graders
- Graphics are childish for 6th graders
- For Kindergarten, above grade level goes only to levels D and E
- It takes all year for Kindergarten to get through the alphabet
- Spelling component
- Too much “stuff”
- Technology component not user friendly
- Lacks rigor with assessments (simplistic), only multiple choice, no free response
- Need to supplement
- Amount of copying
- Less engaging and interesting fiction and nonfiction, limited connections
- Close read texts limited and simplistic
- Teacher Edition is hard to break apart
- Low level illustrations and reading
- Similar to current adoption
- Less interactive

After all teacher & parent comments were compiled and written on the whiteboard, a discussion took place regarding the number of publishers LCUSD can work with. Anais mentioned that the District preference would be no more than two publishers. Due to the fact that the number of

teachers favoring Wonders and those favoring Journeys was too close and Kindergarten and 6th grade preferred their own publisher, a recommendation could not be made at this meeting.

A suggestion was made to return back to site colleagues and use collaboration time to come to an agreement on a #1 choice as a grade level and send it to site principals. Site principals will send it to Anais who will then count the number of choices and identify the one with the highest number. If this method does not lend to a final recommendation, a second meeting will take place on April 6th at 3:30 p.m. in the District Office. Only 2 teachers were in favor of a second meeting, therefore it was decided to go with option 1 first and use option 2 only as a last resort.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Mumper