

**7/8 Math Textbook Adoption Meeting**  
**February 21, 2017**  
**La Canada High School - 700 Conference Room**

Members present: Paul Kim, Christine Dornian, Jeenie Lee, Samantha Wright, Charisse Bontemps, Jarrett Gold, Carmen Arom, Xenia Amashukeli and Anais Wenn.

Mrs. Wenn welcomed the committee to the final recommendation meeting for 7/8 math adoption. Introductions were made and the agenda was distributed.

Mrs. Wenn asked the teachers if they wished to revisit their rating sheets after spending more time with the materials. She also mentioned that the rating sheets are considered public documents and will be posted online when this agenda item appears in front of the Governing Board. Teachers did not wish to make any changes on their rating sheets. They were comfortable with dropping the other three publishers and focusing mainly on Math in Focus (MIF) for their final recommendation.

Mrs. Wenn asked them to share their findings and observations after piloting Math in Focus. One of the 8th grade teachers mentioned that MIF had great geometry problems that were not covered in their current textbook. She added that initially the textbook seemed very procedural, however, with more use she found it very user friendly, especially the online component. She reported that the students enjoyed the problems and some found them quite challenging and had to delve deeper. Another 8th grade teacher commented on its strong alignment to the Common Core State Standards.

One of the parents added that from the 4 textbooks reviewed, Singapore math scored the highest.

A 7th grade teacher shared that he liked the problems. He found the unit on geometry closely aligned with the standards. However, he didn't see many performance tasks. He felt he would need to supplement. 8th grade teachers agreed. He also felt that MIF did not enforce strong math vocabulary. It seemed that the publisher assumed that students had already learned it in previous grades. There needs to be more review of the vocabulary to make sure students are using them fluently.

The concept of the textbook being one resource was brought up as well as the need for supplement because no textbook is perfect. However, all agreed that students need a textbook they can use and refer to at least 70% of the time and MIF meets that need.

One of the teachers added that there will be a need to add visuals to the concepts that are not provided in the textbook. This makes it easier for students to understand. Another teacher asked if she could have access to the 6th grade materials so that she could see what was previously taught.

Mrs. Wenn asked the teachers if they thought MIF provided enough support materials for differentiation. She shared that the 6th grade teachers rely on enrichment and reteach components for students who need more help or more challenge. One of the 6th grade teachers utilizes reteach and enrich materials for homework so that students can work on problems at their skill level. Homework becomes more meaningful when it's differentiated based on student's skill level. All teachers were in agreement that MIF provided some materials for differentiation but that they would still need to supplement when needed.

One teacher mentioned the importance of consistency for 6th through 8th grade programs. It will be great to build on previous grade levels. She also expressed the desire to meet with 6th through 8th grade teachers to discuss MIF and how they use it. Mrs. Wenn connected 6th grade math teachers with 7<sup>th</sup> math teachers via email at the start of this year so that they could share their experiences with one another. She was also hoping that teachers would schedule to meet, which the District always supports. She thanked one of the 6th grade teachers, Kate Patito who wrote a detailed and very meaningful and helpful email to the 7<sup>th</sup> teachers regarding her experience with MIF. Two other teachers mentioned that they had a lengthy conversation with a 6th grade teacher from PCY, Christine Kha, which they found very useful as well.

One teacher asked if there would be training on how to use the materials. Mrs. Wenn mentioned that the publisher will provide training. One of the teachers felt the need for training on the online component. He mentioned that incoming 7th graders would be familiar with it from last year and teachers need to be a step ahead of the kids to be able to meet their needs.

Mrs. Wenn asked once again if teachers felt that MIF had sufficient resources to support instruction. She also asked about the assessments. Teachers had not used the assessments yet. Mrs. Wenn asked them to use some of the assessments to make sure they are rigorous enough so that the teachers don't have to create the assessments themselves. She shared how the 6th grade teachers currently use the assessments and spoke about the grading of challenge problems.

One of the parents mentioned that initially the challenge problems were very difficult for students but then they got used to them and are enjoying them. She mentioned that she had two children in 6th grade who have been using MIF this year.

Another parent added that it is beneficial to be exposed to challenging problems because that's what they will have to encounter in real life. She mentioned that she is a college professor and is always surprised to see how students deal with challenging problems that not everyone can solve.

One of the teachers mentioned that when they start using the assessments, they have to have a discussion as a team on how to grade them since he does not believe in extra credit.

Mrs. Wenn asked how will the textbook be used for both 7/8 Common Core and the  $\frac{7}{8}$  Common Core Advanced courses. Would teachers utilize other resources/supplements for the Advanced course?

One of the teachers felt that they had enough resources already to challenge students. In the  $\frac{7}{8}$  Common Core class some students are able to solve some of the problems but in the advanced class they complete all problems including the challenging ones. However, they will still use other supplements when needed.

One of the parents asked where teachers select the supplemental materials from and one of the teachers mentioned a few resources, including EngageNY. He also mentioned that teachers create resources as well which are often much better than those pulled from other websites.

One of the parents asked if the math lessons could be linked to the science lessons so that students can see the real life application of concepts. Dr. Gold mentioned that they do use common vocabulary and brought an example when he was observing in an 8th grade math class and the teacher was referring to what students were learning in the science class (slope, velocity, etc.).

Mrs. Wenn mentioned that an invitation was sent to K-7th grade parents to review the textbooks which were being considered for adoption. During the three days of materials review, 22 parents participated and 19 of them filled out the input form. Out of 19, 16 voted for MIF, one for Go Math, one for CA Math and one for Connected Math 3. She read a few of the responses for teachers and summarized that the parents favored MIF over the other options. Mrs. Wenn added that to further involve parents in the process, two parents were selected through an application process to represent incoming 7th and 8th grade students at this meeting.

One of the teachers asked the parent who had experience with MIF what she liked about it. The parent shared that she wished there would be more examples in the textbook, but thinks that overall it is a great textbook. The second parent added that MIF had a better narrative, though not perfect, but definitely better than the other options.

One of the parents asked if there would be some review of 6th grade material as students enter 7th grade. A 7th grade teacher responded that even though publishers assume that students have had the materials previously, students do not remember a lot of it so review is always necessary.

One of the parents asked if the textbook provides a glossary of terms to enforce vocabulary? The teacher confirmed but added that some of the words were not in it because they were introduced in previous grade. Another parent suggested making it more of an active vocabulary versus a passive one so that students can learn it and use it fluently.

Mrs. Wenn asked if there were any final comments. There were none.

A vote was taken. Only the math teachers participated in the vote with a 5-0 in favor of MIF. Dr. Gold will attend the March 14th Governing Board meeting and along with Mrs. Wenn will present the  $\frac{7}{8}$  teacher recommendation to the Governing Board. There will be 2 reads. At the first one the recommendation will be presented and questions, if any, will be answered. The item will be brought back for the second time to be approved by the Board. Mrs. Wenn invited teachers and parents to attend this meeting if interested. Mrs. Wenn also mentioned that the MIF textbook will be available at the District Office from March 14 - May 26 for anyone to review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Mueller