

# MEMORANDUM

To: Tim Van Tassel, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Michelle Zawawi, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Date: June 19, 2019  
Re: Social Studies Textbook Board of Education Action Item, July 8, 2019



This memo is to provide an overview of the textbook process for the 2018-2019 SMS social studies textbook pilot and SHS AP Human Geography course.

The Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee, social studies teachers and administration met on November 19, 2018 to begin the process and approve the pilot.

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee met on Monday June 10, 2019 to review the status of Grade 6/7 pilot program including textbook recommendations from SMS and SHS social studies teachers and administration.

## **Suffield Middle School, Social Studies Grade 6 and Grade 7**

- Social Studies teachers reviewed several textbooks during 2017-2018 school year with Curriculum Leader Tim Kinel.
- Social Studies team narrowed the search to two textbooks fall of 2018 using the textbook evaluation process.
- Social Studies pilot team and Mr. Smith met with the Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee to discuss pilot on November 19, 2018.
- Discovering Our Past: A History of the World by McGraw Hill was piloted in the second trimester, 2018. This text was piloted by (2) sixth grade and (2) seventh grade social studies classes.
- Teachers met with McGraw Hill representative during early release Professional Development.
- Teachers taught specific lessons on cause and effect, understanding a primary source, summarization, and timeline which aligned with the ELA and Social Studies Standards.
- Teachers noted the non-fiction text provided structure and craft which aligned to SBAC test (listening, making claims with evidence, making connections, main idea, text features).
- Teachers used the interactive features, videos, differentiation tools, extension activities, and assessment tools.
- During the pilot the students used on-line text and text.
- Last Grade 6/7 textbook purchased in 2001.

### Recommendation:

- Purchase the 100 piloted textbooks, Discovering Our Past: A History of the World by McGraw Hill- \$7,719.00 for grades 6 and 7.
- Grade 6/7 use the same text.
  - (25) grade 6 white team, (25) grade 6 blue team
  - (25) grade 7 white team, (25) grade 7 blue team
- Purchase (303) digital subscriptions for (7) seven year subscription- \$27,324.54
- Total with S&H = \$37,847.02

### Attachments:

- Textbook Evaluation Document
- Quote

## **Suffield High School, Social Studies AP Human Geography**

- At the November 19, 2018 Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee meeting, Mr. Blain, Mr. Dumais and Ms. Blais presented the AP Human Geography course to the committee. The C&I subcommittee approved the course for 2019-20.
- SHS recommended : AP Edition, The Cultural Landscape. An Introduction to Human Geography. 2017, at the June 10, 2019 C&I subcommittee meeting.
- College Board recommended this text to teach the course.
- There are currently 25 students signed up to take AP Human Geography for next year. This is a full year course (schedules are currently being finalized and Mr. Blain does not expect all of those students signed up to be able to take the course due to scheduling conflicts).

### Attachments:

- Textbook Evaluation Document
- Quote- Total- \$4,309.10
  - Textbooks- \$3,099.40
  - Etext (6 year ) \$1,209.70