



Roseburg Public Schools

Roseburg, Oregon

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

1:30 PM

December 9, 2020

<u>X</u>	Micki Hall, Chair	<u>X</u>	Jared Cordon
<u>EXC</u>	Steve Patterson	<u>X</u>	Michelle Knee
<u>X</u>	Rebecca Larson		
<u>X</u>	Charles Lee, Alternate		

Summary of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Directors Hall, Larson and Lee were present. Administrators present were Jared Cordon and Michelle Knee. Guests included: Nicki Opp, Jo Lane Middle School Principal, Darin Lomica, Jo Lane Middle School Assistant Principal, Brenna Christensen and David Morrocco Jo Lane Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts teachers.

Call to Order: Director Hall called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

8th Grade ELA Materials

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee explained that the original plan was that ELA materials for the secondary schools were to have been piloted this year, but due to COVID the process has been delayed until the 2021-22 school year. In the interim, staff are required to submit a form to Teaching & Learning providing a synopsis of the novel they are seeking approval for as well as the reason(s) they would like to incorporate the novel into their teaching. Michelle introduced 8th grade ELA teacher at Jo Lane Middle School, Brenna Christensen and her teaching partner Mr. David Morrocco, who discussed the proposed reading material; "Dry" by Neal & Jarrod Shusterman. Ms. Christensen provided a brief description of the book as well as her history with teaching this text. Ms. Christensen explained that this book catches the attention of reluctant readers, that it is new, modern and catches a student's attention as every chapter is a cliffhanger. Brenna noted that the themes in the story pair well with current events. Additionally, Mr. Morrocco acknowledged the controversial scenes and suggested that they are good starters for classroom discussions.

The committee members were each provided with a copy of the book prior to the meeting and each one provided feedback on their impression of the book:

- Director Lee expressed his appreciation for the writing style that grabs the reader's attention and felt that it would provide for interesting classroom discussions.
- Director Larson noted that she is conflicted about the age appropriateness of the text for 8th graders due to some of the graphic subjects.
- Chair Hall enjoyed the story, particularly the strong, consistent characters as well as the potential for many classroom lessons.

The committee recommends that this book be submitted, for adoption, to the Board with the

recommendation that it only be used by Language Arts classes (8th grade and above), that there be a specific reason that the book is being used and that there will be alternative options for those students whose parents do not want them to read the text in question. Additionally, Jared asked that thought be given to accessibility, particularly providing the book, as well as the description, be made available in multiple languages.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. The next meeting for this committee is to be determined.

Prepared by:

Stephanie Taylor, Administrative Assistant