Writing Adoption Committee Meeting Minutes 12/6/21

Present: Beth LeBlanc, Emily Leigh, Joey Ruppel, Kevin Storey, Sarah Platten, Shelly Edgar, Jenn Young, Alex Ariema, Alexandra Bacon, Allison Law, Danielle Sweet, Jennifer Martin, Lissa Davis, Sarah Torrilhon, Tani Eley, Laura Hill, Jennifer Kroening, Stephanie Tauecki

Meeting started at 3:35.

S. Edgar checked to see if everyone had the agenda.

Welcome and introductions made by sharing name, role, and favorite way to relax. Slideshow shared by S.Edgar at 3:45.

Purpose: This committee will choose what program is purchased by the district. A list will also create an approved supplemental list for use in schools.

Supplemental process in slideshow shared to create a smaller list of options for schools/teachers to use.

Member and Stakeholder roles were read and explained.

Working Agreements were noted per slide.

Purpose and Outcomes and shared understanding of the rubric used to evaluate the different curriculum.

Next week's meeting: two vendors will share and the committee will use the rubric to evaluate both.

Schools have a choice to opt in or out of the chosen curriculum, or to continue to use programs on the approved list or adopted Tier 1 adopted curriculum.

Allison Law question: Can school opt in to the newly adopted curriculum as well as something from a different approved curriculum? Answer: (Edgar and Young) as long as it is not conflicting, looking for continuity for students at one site. Tier 1 curriculum can always be used. Materials used must be on the approved list.

Question from Sarah Platten: funding in regards to Title 1 money? Answer: (Edgar) this will be purchased by the district curriculum department for all schools.

If a school opts in all ELA teachers in that school will be trained and use the new material with fidelity.

A. Law asked if the teaching of material will be monitored to be sure they are using it. Answer from Young, there is no monitoring of usage, but expectation that teachers are using it with fidelity.

Step Up to Writing, Being a Writer and Writing by Design will be presented to the committee and possibly one more.

T. Eley asked how the additional supplemental list will be used if a school opts into the newly chosen curriculum. Answer (Young) this is mainly for schools who are already trained and using one of these approved programs and want to continue using it.

Lissa Davis Question: Title schools that already have Step Up to Reading can still use it if it's on the approved list and if materials purchased by district are newer or more complete, would Title I schools receive it. Answer is yes to both questions

Implementing program includes district funded teacher training.

Summation of IES main recommendations for teaching writing shared in both elementary and secondary ELA classrooms that will be used to evaluate programs.

Participants added to a Padlet to write key components found in AZ ELA standards at differing grade levels.

Question(Eley): are we including writing foundation standards? Answered: Writing Foundation standards are only found in K-5 but can be included in Padlet. Unsure if vendors have included Writing Foundation Standards. Writing Foundation Standards are handwriting, spelling skills, and grammar mostly. Also: is 6th grade part of Elementary or Secondary range? Answer: depending on the curriculum vendors and decisions made in this committee. Vendors may vary in placement of 6th grade. 6th grade materials will be purchased based on available vendor options depending on what is chosen.

Discussed how to use the Rubric: Main topics look at content, comprehensiveness of the curriculum, electronic resources available in both online and printable, relevant, and build a bridge from home to school.

Next Steps:

Next Meeting, Meeting #2 is on 12/13 with 2 vendors sharing, Step Up to Writing and Being a Writer. Meeting #3 is on 1/10/22 with additional vendors presenting (tentative). Materials will be available for 60 days viewing at the district office. These are school days, not calendar days. Meeting in April or May for final decisions TBD.

Note that all links are available through today's agenda for further review.

No questions or concerns were asked to end the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45.