

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 14, 2022 MEETING MINUTES  
4:45 p.m., 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Jennifer Turner, Donna Schuster (remote)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shannan Carlson

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. E. Marie McPadden, Andrea Drewry

**1. Call to Order**

Carla Eichler called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

**2. Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes – Motion to accept by Andrea Hubbard; Unanimous**

- a. **Curriculum Committee Meeting – December 13, 2021**
- b. **Curriculum Committee Meeting – January 10, 2022**

*MOTION by Andrea Hubbard to accept minutes as submitted*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 4 (unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Discussion and Possible Action on Textbook Proposals**

- a. **Campbell Biology in Focus AP Edition, 3rd Edition, AP Biology, High School Grades 11 and 12**
- b. **The Science Behind the Stores 7th Edition 2021, AP Environmental Science, High School Grades 11 and 12**
- c. **Forensic Science An Introduction, Forensic Science, High School Grades 11 and 12**

*MOTION by Andrea Hubbard to accept all textbook proposals as submitted*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 4 (unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

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**5. Presentation of Reader's Workshop Model**

Presented by Andrea Drewry, District Literacy Middle School Coach

**6. Adjournment**

*MOTION by Andrea Hubbard to adjourn meeting*

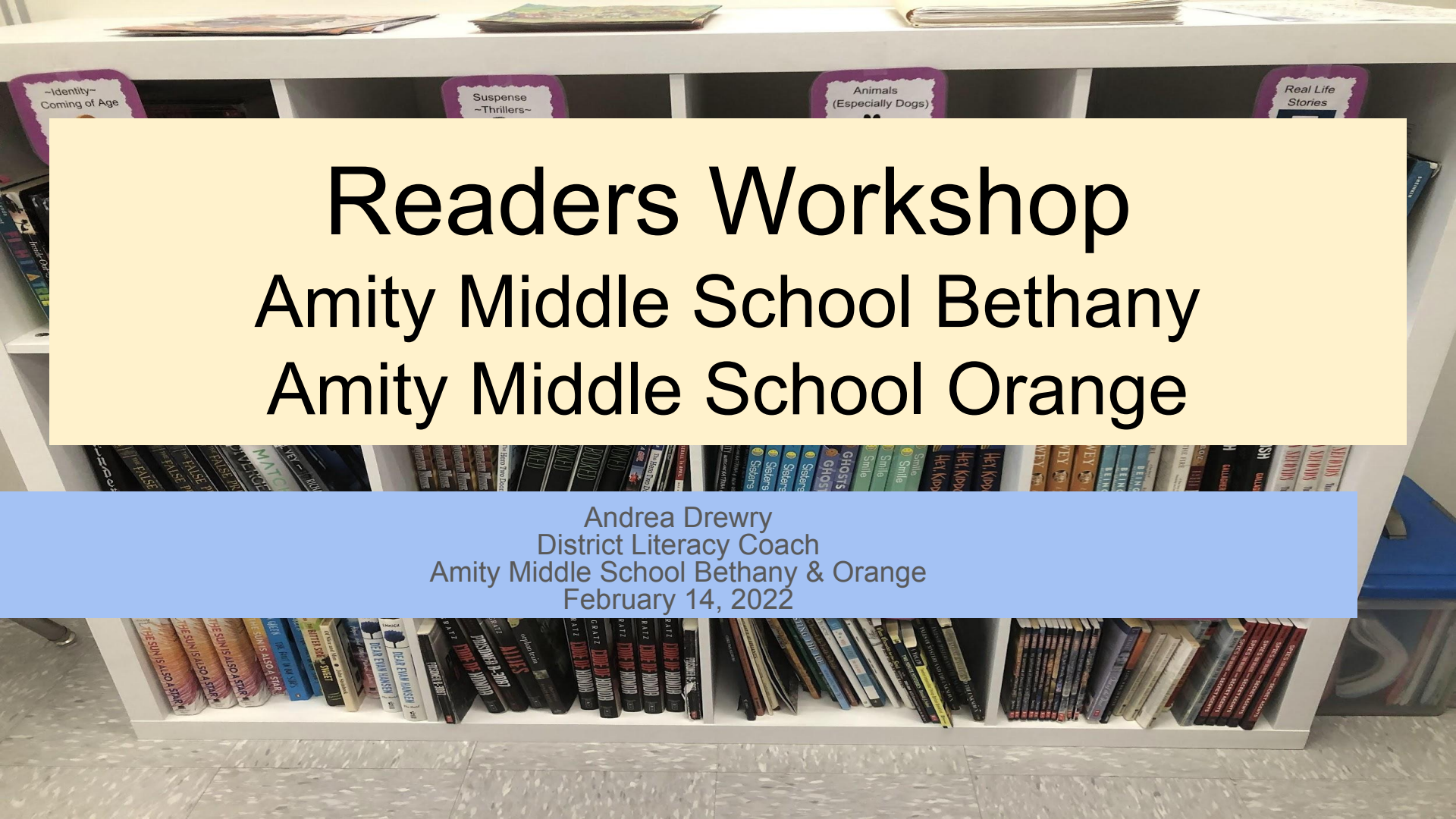
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 4 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. E. Marie McPadden,  
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development



-Identity-  
Coming of Age

Suspense  
-Thrillers-

Animals  
(Especially Dogs)

Real Life  
Stories

# Readers Workshop

## Amity Middle School Bethany

## Amity Middle School Orange

Andrea Drewry  
District Literacy Coach  
Amity Middle School Bethany & Orange  
February 14, 2022

# Units of Study

- **Launching Unit- 7th and 8th grade**

Students will learn the ins and outs of Reading Workshop. The workshop model is structured into 3 parts: mini lesson, independent reading and sharing. The mini lesson is a brief 10-15 minute session in which the teachers explicitly teach a skill or strategy. Students then have an independent reading session where they can practice that skill or strategy. There is another brief follow up at the end of the class where students and teachers recap or share ideas from the day. The launching unit will focus on short stories and include written responses to text which focus on annotating and summarizing.

- **Characterization- 7th and 8th grade**

The Characterization Unit is intended to allow students to better understand the intricacies of story within the context of realistic fiction. In this unit, we will not only explore characters, but also how authors create these characters. This investigation allows “students to see more in the stories they read“ (*Investigating Characterization* p. viii)

- **Social Issues- 7th grade**

A driving force in this unit is the power of reading to transform how we see others and to show us new ways to be kind, connect, and stand up for what’s right. In middle school, many kinds of issues start to weigh more heavily on students: relationship issues, school issues, and a growing awareness of larger societal pressures. This unit will provide students the opportunity to explore issues that impact their lives from a variety of perspectives.

## Units of Study (continued)

- **Contemporary Fiction- 8th grade**

The Contemporary Fiction Unit will allow students to explore this generation of contemporary writers. It is concerned with cultural relevance and is dedicated to contemporary critical literacy skills. Students will be introduced to the work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop and the concept of “mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors.” This work involves allowing students to see themselves in literature or gain perspective of others. Teachers College asserts that, “Through teaching contemporary literature our hope is to empower students as democratic readers, thinkers and young activists” (*Critical Literacy* p. vii).

- **Book Clubs- 7th & 8th grade**

This unit will support students as they learn to talk more deeply about their reading and push themselves to read with greater volume. It will also take advantage of the power of various genres to lure kids into studying text complexity, symbolism, and allusions.

# Why now?

- Reading is a lifelong skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read—this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. With this in mind, our goal is for our students to read extensively. We will do our best to motivate students to read academically as well as for enjoyment. Some of the reading will be assigned, but students will have many opportunities to select their own books to be read independently.
- To encourage a love of reading, we have worked hard to develop our classroom libraries. The classroom libraries are available for students to choose a book for independent reading. Research shows that students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more, and students who read more are students who read better.

# Parent Involvement

- We want families to know that we are sensitive to having appropriate reading materials in our classroom libraries. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one family to another. Some families do not mind their child reading Stephen King; others may object to the horror genre. Please be aware that the selections in our classroom library, just like a public library, have a range of reading material. **We ask parents or guardians to remain aware throughout the year of the books your child has selected to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.**
- *Rest assured the books in our classroom libraries are usually not assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only, and students have a choice.*
- Parent involvement- we ask that parents check in with their child discuss the short stories and books they are reading. We are also encouraging students to read at home in order to support the learning and discussions in the classroom.

# Background

Video <https://www.amityregion5.org/>

Parent letter

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L9rly00UcUZ5ZtQIxNkCWBxql4O5ixP5W4-t4MirbHs/edit?usp=sharing>

Back to school video

<https://youtu.be/jHjo0E4OO2Q>