

# CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING

4:00 PM-5:00 PM Derry Township School District - Board Room



## CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING - 9/12/2022

### *Roll Call*

**Members Present:** Laura Alexander, Robert Bennett, Donna Cronin, Lauren Doyle, Jena Funck, Anna Gawel, Christine Hicks, Erin Ives, Greg Knowles, Lindsay Koch, Traci Landry, Lindsey Schmidt, Caroline Shearer, Aaron Shuman, Kathy Sicher, Erick Valentin,

**Members Absent:** Lisa Sviben Miller, Chelsea Gavin, Joy Graeff, Jessica Intrieri, Heidi Stine, Shari Taylor-Stuckey

**Citizen Advisors in Attendance:** Jordan Yeagley

**Staff Members/Public Present:** Philip Ayala, Lindsay Drew, Missy Kunder, John Miller – public, Stacy Winslow

## 1. Call to Order

### Minutes

The Curriculum Council meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on 9/12/2022

## 2. Review of Summary Notes

## 3. Informational

### 3.a. 2022-2023 Meeting Dates

## 4. Items for Discussion

## 5. New Business

## 6. Old Business

### 6.a. Textbook Recommendation and Adoption: Bronx Masquerade

Curricular Area:	English Language Arts
Subject/Course:	8th Grade ELA
Title:	Bronx Masquerade
Copyright:	2002
Author:	Nikki Grimes

We would like to have Bronx Masquerade as a read-aloud option. This book introduces students to a diverse group of characters, allowing each one to find something they can connect with. By following the journey of 18 different characters, students are able to see how much each one changes throughout the course of a school year. This book provides an excellent example of how characterization is used throughout the course of a novel. There are also connections made to universal themes and students are able to identify how these themes weave in and out of each character's story. In answering discussion questions surrounding the book, students are able to make connections to 8th grade writing tasks while finding evidence to support their answers.

**Minutes**

A motion was made for a second read for the Textbook Adoption of Read-Aloud book: Bronx Masquerade by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Lindsey Koch. Vote: 18 Yeah 1 Nay. This recommendation will now be presented to the Board of School Directors at their next meeting for a final vote.

**6.b. Textbook Recommendation and Adoption: Orbiting Jupiter**

Curricular Area:	English Language Arts
Subject/Course	8th Grade ELA
Title:	Orbiting Jupiter
Copyright:	2015
Author:	Gary D. Schmidt

We would like to use Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt as a read-aloud option.

Orbiting Jupiter has a Lexile of 740L. While reading this book students are given opportunities to analyze the figurative language and word choice that is present throughout the novel. This book also provides an excellent example for students of how the change in a character impacts the development of a theme. This book is also used to make connections to the different elements of a story that the students learn throughout the year. Since this book is read after PSSA testing, we are able to address our speaking and listening standards which connect to our book club focus.

**Minutes**

A motion was made for a second read for the Textbook Adoption of Read-Aloud book: Orbiting Jupiter by Lindsey Koch and seconded by Kathy Sicher. All were in favor. This recommendation will now be presented to the Board of School Directors at their next meeting for a final vote.

### 6.c. Textbook Recommendation and Adoption: The Marrow Thieves

Curriculum Area:	English Language Arts
Subject/Course:	8th Grade ELA
Title:	The Marrow Thieves
Copyright:	2017
Author:	Cherie Dimaline

We would like to use The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline as a read-aloud option. Dimaline wrote the book specifically for Indigenous youth, a population whom she believes may often feel isolated and alone.

When this book was chosen as the Young Adult selection for the Global Read Aloud in 2019, we participated and found that The Marrow Thieves is an important text because it focuses on the interconnectedness of all global inhabitants. Although this interconnectedness poses a risk if that connection is ever forgotten, it also is rife with the potential for great success, beauty, and happiness. This text reminds all who read it- especially 8<sup>th</sup> graders who often wonder about their future- that we are all in this together and that if we work together, we can achieve even the most impossible tasks. Additionally, this text was chosen because it represents a perspective that's not otherwise addressed in our 8th grade literature curriculum, and it's another way for students to develop their empathy through learning about the lives of others.

#### Minutes

A motion was made for a second read for the Textbook Adoption of Read-Aloud book: The Marrow Thieves by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Lindsey Koch. Vote: 18 Yeah 1 Nay. This recommendation will now be presented to the Board of School Directors at their next meeting for a final vote.

## 7. Public Comment

#### Minutes

John Miller expressed a concern on the Read Aloud The Marrow Thieves.

## 8. Next Meeting - Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 4:00 pm

## 9. Adjournment

#### Minutes

A motion was made by Kathy Sicher and Seconded by Lindsey Koch to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 pm