

Mercer Island School District
Learning Services
4160 86th AVE SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-236-3330

Special Meeting Notes

February 28, 2017

Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Fred Rundle, Director of Learning Services • Note taker: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

Present:

Ahisha Avant
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Kristin Kim
Lori Otto Punke
Brigit White

Absent:

David Baxter
Carol Best
Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Rebecca Hedlund
Meghan Kelley
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Lori Otto Punke
Lisa Stewart
Rohan Tatum
Jessica Weinman
Scott Weiss
Patty Weston

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

Fred reminded participants about the upcoming regular meeting on March 21. He listed anticipated adoption reviews, including literacy curriculum for grades 3-5 HiCap, and Horticulture for grades 9-12 at Crest.

Fred announced that the elementary science team would present at the May meeting. There may be some ancillary materials coming through the committee, as well.

That's A Family – film

Written by Debra Chasnoff (Director), Helen S. Cohen (Executive Producer)

Published by Women's Educational Media, 2000

Proposal submitted by David Hoffman, Island Park Principal, and Jenny McAlaine, Lakeridge Elementary Principal

David and Jenny introduced this 30-minute film as a supplement to the 4th grade Second Step curriculum. They remarked on its anti-bullying message that encourages empathy and acceptance. The film complements the district's goal to keep kids safe and develop healthy self-esteem. MISD has a diverse population. This film covers all types of families and gives kids tools to use good judgment. Jenny said her 4th-grade teacher team hopes the film will one day be available to all grades.

Fred said some community members had expressed concerns. Jenny and David responded that the Lakeridge student advisory committee, the Island Park PTA, and the Island Park Parent Advisory Council were all supportive of the film. Island Park also sent out a letter to parents offering them the chance to view the movie and to opt out if they wish. There is a teacher guide with sample questions and an activity list. Fred remarked that family diversity is only a small piece of the diversity issue. He hopes that teachers won't use this as the only vehicle for teaching diversity. There may be a better and timelier option down the road.

Vote: Mark Jergens-Zmuda motioned to approve *That's A Family*, the film, as supplemental material to Second Step in 4th grade classrooms starting in the 2017-18 school year. Ahisha Avant seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions. Fred remarked that five committee members not able to attend had communicated their support of the material.

Fred shared that the Superintendent will review the material. He may then make a recommendation to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.