

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

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2016

Instructional Materials Committee

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

Present:

Ilene Barnwell
David Baxter
Cameron Cummings
Andrea Dunbar
Natalie Escobar
Molly Fort
Rebecca Hedlund
Kristin Kim
Lori Otto Punke
Jessica Weinman
Patty Weston
Brigit White

Absent:

Leah Akins
Sally Bartow
Carol Best
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Amanda Mattocks
Jason Meade
Anne Rubin

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Fred thanked members who were able to make it to the meeting at this busy time of year.

He announced that three pilots are up for approval at this meeting. These pilots, if approved, will begin next school year and will be monitored throughout the school year.

As a HiCap teacher, David Baxter will have to recuse himself from voting on the *Making Meaning: Gr. 3-5 HiCap Language Arts* pilot proposal. Fred has been deeply involved in the K-5 Spanish curriculum. He asked that someone volunteer as facilitator during that portion of tonight's meeting.

Springboard Grade 6 Language Arts: print and digital program

Published by Pearson, 2014

Proposal submitted by Mary Jo Budzius, Co-Principal of Islander Middle School, and Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services

The Mondo Bookshelf common core 5th grade program segues into the Springboard program.

Mary Jo and Nova described *Springboard* as abundant with speaking and listening tools. Teachers and students are required to talk about what they are reading together.

Teachers are enthusiastic about *Springboard's* online component— it is user friendly. Kids with iPads can go right to work. There has been positive feedback about *Springboard* from MISD teacher peers in other districts.

The material includes a novel that aligns with the curriculum. It also contains embedded excerpts from movies, short stories, poetry, non-fiction narratives, and written assessments.

Funding sources for online formats may come from tech levy money, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, or basic education money.

There is some overlap with 7th and 8th grade curriculum so those teachers will also benefit. The departmental team is pursuing ways to get student input.

Vote: Andrea Dunbar motioned to approve **Springboard Grade 6 Language Arts: print and digital program** as a pilot in IMS 6th grade Language Arts classes during the coming school year. David Baxter seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

SPONGE: K-5 Spanish Language Program
Cognission Corporation DBA Sponge, 2016
Proposal submitted by Brooke Cartwithen, Lakeridge Elementary Teacher, and Fred Rundle, Assistant Superintendent

Fred recused himself as facilitator in order to take part in this presentation. David Baxter volunteered to facilitate this portion of the meeting.

Brooke and Fred presented this proposal for field-testing a before and after school K-5 Spanish language program for elementary (novice) speakers. Brooke has observed the program at the Tacoma School District and in Connecticut and California. K-5 students will likely attend twice weekly in 40 minute increments. It is a 95% immersion opportunity to learn language in an oral manner. There won't be an expectation that students will read and write in Spanish. The emphasis will be on conversation. There will be one native and 3 non-native speaking teachers dedicated to each school. The curriculum is designed for teachers who don't teach language. There is flexibility in that Sponge will build units and write curriculum to our specifications. They will work closely with us as the process unfolds. Fred predicted that in the next three years we would learn what the next evolution of this program would look like.

Fred said that this program speaks to MISD's Fundamental 7: to foster and embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and equity. There is an expectation to develop empathy for other learners in our schools. The Spanish Language program may also enhance the learning of students who struggle with English. Research has shown that younger kids can easily go in and out of other languages.

Funding and grading issues were also discussed. There is up-front funding for the first couple of years. For teacher materials beyond that we will start developing our own, so a long term cost is not anticipated. The class will be graded via progress reports like other grades.

Vote: Lori Otto Punke motioned to approve **SPONGE: Spanish Language Program** for field-testing in elementary schools during the coming school year. Kristin Kim seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

Making Meaning: Language Arts Highly Capable grades 3-5 comprehension and vocabulary curriculum
Published by the Center for the Collaborative Classroom, 2015
Proposal submitted by Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services

Nova presented a request to field test this core material in the fall of 2016. Making Meaning provides research-based instruction that combines academics with social and emotional learning.

Gifted learners have different needs when it comes to the social/emotional element of learning. Nova stated her hope that this curriculum will bridge the gap between cognitive ability and emotional ability.

Vote: Natalie Escobar motioned to approve ***Making Meaning*** for field-testing for core material in HiCap elementary schools during the coming school year. Lori Otto Punke seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

Approval of minutes: The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 24, 2016 IMC meeting. The minutes were approved.

A word of thanks: Fred thanked the 2015-16 members for being on the Instructional Materials committee. He stated his appreciation for their willingness to give up precious time to take part. He thanked departing members Molly Fort and Ilene Barnwell for their service.

Fred announced that he would contact members to see who can participate next year. He will also search for new members. He shared that next year we will have updated policy forms.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.