

Meeting Notes

March 29, 2016

Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Fred Rundle, Director of Learning Services

Note taker: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

Members present:

Ilene Barnwell
Sally Bartow
David Baxter
Cameron Cummings
Natalie Escobar
Rebecca Hedlund
Kristin Kim
Jason Meade
Anne Rubin
Patty Weston
Brigit White

Members absent:

Leah Akins
Carol Best
Andrea Dunbar
Molly Fort
Mark Jergens-Zmuda
Amanda Mattocks
Lori Otto Punke
Jessica Weinman

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.

Fred took a moment to explain the differences between core and supplemental materials. He also briefed the committee about its essential tasks:

- To ensure that criteria for diversity, cultural awareness, gender discrepancies, and content for courses are met.
- To consider a student's viewpoint when evaluating potential resources.

But, he advised, we are not the content experts. We defer to the people who bring the materials for our review. He explained a bit about the voting process. For the textbook under review today, a favorable vote would send it on to the superintendent. From there it would go to the school board.

***Living By Chemistry* by Angelica M. Stacy, 2015**

MIHS Science teacher Shannon Sue and MISD Executive Director Jennifer Wright presented the textbook *Living By Chemistry* for adoption as core material.

The proposed textbook will be used at Mercer Island High School in Chemistry 2/3. Jennifer explained that the district is moving to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The proposed textbook will replace a 15-year-old edition published by the same company. The new textbook is for 11-12th graders, and will require one or two teachers. There will be anywhere from 65-130 students impacted by this textbook on a yearly basis.

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Shannon Sue explained that *Living By Chemistry* is for non-honors chemistry students. It covers core standards as stated by NGSS. The core of NGSS is relevance to real world scenarios, and improving career readiness.

Mr. Sue looked at four books during the initial screening process. He narrowed them down to *Living By Chemistry* and *Chemistry in the Community*, a first-year high school chemistry textbook.

Mr. Sue noted that his focus group of parents, students and teachers gave *Living By Chemistry* a readability score of grade level 11.64. In the Women and Minority Report, the focus group gave *Living By Chemistry* a score of 4.5 out of 5.0. In the textbook review score sheets, students and teachers gave *Living By Chemistry* higher scores on average. Mr. Sue feels that *Living By Chemistry* is the best choice moving forward in Chem. 2.

An IMC member shared her concern that the book may prohibit extended math students from acquiring skills needed to pass. Mr. Sue replied that it is math friendly— designed for students who aren't on the honors calculus or pre-calculus track.

Another member commented that the book has an abundance of pictorial examples. Shannon shared his belief that *Living By Chemistry* has a better scope and sequence than the book currently in use. *Living By Chemistry* begins at an accessible level and doesn't skip around, which can confuse some kids. It has sensible and fun examples addressing NGSS core concepts that kids can relate to.

Mr. Sue stated that there's a PDF version of the book, and computer simulations are available. Though *Living By Chemistry* is not an interactive textbook, it is moving in the right direction. With the number of credits needed to graduate increasing (24 credits starting with the class of 2019), we must create multiple pathways for students to achieve graduation in four years.

Note: There was a motion to recommend to the Superintendent and then the Board of Directors full adoption of *Living By Chemistry*. The motion was seconded. All those present voted in favor. There were no abstentions.

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Fred explained that policy 2019 is transitioning from an administrative policy to a board policy. Administrative policies are written and updated by the Superintendent. Board policies are under the direct responsibility of the school board. The board is considering their responsibilities under state statute regarding all core materials. This issue will be discussed further at the April 7 board meeting. After that, we will know if there are any changes to IMC procedures.

The meeting adjourned 4:41 pm

DRAFT