

**Mercer Island School District Instructional Materials Committee Meeting**  
**Board Room**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2014**  
**4 to 6 pm**

I. Fault in our Stars by John Green

Whitney Swope, Teacher at IMS, presented this book for approval.

She explained the author has a big following, and student reactions are impressive. Literary allusions are everywhere. There are references to Emily Dickinson as well as Thoreau, bringing poetry to our students. Vocabulary is elevated in this book. The themes are: family, identity, and illness. The family structure is wonderful in this book. This story is told through an authentic teenage voice, using elevated language.

The controversial issues of alcohol and sex would need to be addressed, possibly by letting parents know in advance. Another challenge may be because of the popularity this book has already received.

It would fit into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade core and spring choice novel. This would provide technology to use on ipad and teach E-reader advantages.

When questions arose for Library at IMS, Denise explained she bought it first for the high school; and then after reading it and looking at reviews, he bought a copy at IMS...growing by word of mouth...Touches people in a way that is so gratifying...Great time to explore the emotions...

*This book was approved unanimously.*

II. Second Step Curriculum from IMS

Harry Brown & Drew Klein, Counselors, presented this curriculum.

When they were at a bullying conference at Gates Center, they came across this material. Presently, there is no health taught in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students need the lessons throughout the year and not just once a year Piloted this last year K-5 at Lakeridge and it was a very positive experience. Goal is to teach 6 & 8<sup>th</sup> grade in health education and LA/SS 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Bringing in personal stories from other schools and past years...If you go to [www.secondstep.org](http://www.secondstep.org), you can create a quick profile... for teachers, parents, community members... Should be taught in sequence...

It was asked if this is going to bump out another curriculum? This consists of 10 lessons over a year, so it will not replace another curriculum.

Sally Bartow brought up her special ed kids who lots of social emotional needs. Regular education kids are getting this language and helping to understand the special needs kids. Trying to create a dialogue and common language so everyone is comfortable

Asked about what is the scope here? If we approve/deny it is based on grade level. How can this fit in? Science is a natural fit. LA/SS was accepted by team. Teachers primarily delivering materials...Counselors come in and help where needed...

Question was raised, What are we adopting? Fred replied, core materials; not curriculum or standards; not a field test...not support materials..

Much concern about what is our charge? We are teaching in classes that it doesn't fit in so neatly....

Missing some steps....Budzius has not signed. If we don't have a class...why are we reviewing curriculum?

Go back to building level and review...have they looked at review of new standards?

Motion: Ask for a vote to push this back to the school level around 4 areas and suspend a decision for March meeting:

1. Implementation
2. How this aligns with 7<sup>th</sup> grade health & biology standards
3. How this might align to future standards
4. Based on changes...do they have most recent adopted materials? This is 2008 copyright.

Motion seconded and approved.

If we approve...then to Jennifer and Gary and then to the Board in February...then added to website.