

Mercer Island School District
Instructional Materials Committee Meeting
Board Room
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
4 to 6 pm

I. Instructional Materials Committee Policy & Charges

Fred Rundle facilitated the meeting and welcomed all the new and returning members to the first IMC meeting of the school year. Administrative Policy 2019 was given to participants to take home and review. Fred went over the difference between review, selection and adoption for core and supplementary materials versus review, selection and adoption for support, temporary and/or controversial instructional materials.

General days and times were discussed and Fred said he would pick dates and email to each member.

Norms for the meetings were discussed:

1. To hear everyone's view point
2. Participants to receive reading materials and agendas a few days prior to meeting
3. Respect starting and ending times

II. Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves

Alex Kattar presented her proposal for a Field Test of this book. Possibly in the spring it may be presented for an adoption. This book is for an International Studies class which is a requirement to graduate from Mercer Island High School. This book is a civic component on current affairs and is not a core text. It introduces the students how to travel as a political act and has a social justice message that talks about how travel changes you and helps you to understand the world. This book is supplemented with other units on Iran, Brazil, and Asia as they are not covered in this book.

This class has a combination of informational text (Time magazine) news clips and short videos.

The only concern expressed was the book has a large number of really long sentences which would be difficult for alternative and special education students to comprehend. The fact that it is a 9th grade reading level was commended.

This book is available as an ebook from Follett. Students think it would be useful.

III. Cyber Bullying Video for Bridges class

As the High School representative was not present, Fred Rundle presented and showed the video. This was presented as a controversial video to be shown next

week in Bridges classes at the High School. A student explained the Bridges format in which all ninth through twelfth graders attend each Wednesday.

A short introduction with background information would be presented to the class and then the video would be shown. Cyberbullying was discussed last week and this fits into the Bridges discussion on how to become an “upstander” rather than a “bystander;” how to become one rather than another.

Discussion was that this video doesn’t seem controversial and may be more suitable for middle schools students, rather than high school. Some felt it is a good introduction to the topic and seems like a reminder of the issue, rather than a conversation starter. If it sparks any conversation, it’s worth it.

The concern around this video is that it has a definite gender bias and shows only girls.

IV. Review Middle School Game Programming Pilot

Gary Barone presented Kudo, a text for his Video Game Programming class at IMS. He explained that this is a simple visual program. and he would like to purchase 12-15 books as a resource. He feels this is a nice 3D way of programming and students if interested can take knowledge to the next step.

Concerns by the students were that this is just an appetizer and a beginning step; needs actual codes, not just pretend; kids may be disappointed; since this is only option for some kids, it may be a waste of time.; may be way below what kids are coming in for.

The two proposals which passed the committee will be sent to Jennifer Wright for approval.

IV. Vote on Proposals:

Travel as Political Act by Rick Steves.

Action: The Instructional Materials Committee recommended unanimously this book be approved for adoption.

Cyberbullying Video:

Action: The Instructional Materials Committee voted 12 Yes 2 No, 1 Abstain

Kudo

Since the committee was not presented with the appropriate paperwork, it was not possible to take a vote today.

V. Feedback on meeting:

It might be easier to vote after each presentation, rather than wait until the end to vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm