

# Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

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## Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Fred Rundle, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services • Secretary: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

**Present:**

Jamey Balousek  
Sheri Blumenthal  
Jackie Brown  
Lauren Dolby  
Melissa Edling  
Jenny Foster  
Joseph Gushanas  
Brian Hampsh  
Molly Harnish  
Melanie Ready  
Kelly Tran  
Erin Wilson

**Absent:**

Lindzie Adamson  
Kelsey Cochran  
Trudi Hagen  
Ciarelle Jimenez  
Jakob John-Lewis  
Creighton Laughary  
Matt Lavigne  
Cindi Pacecca  
Lisa Stewart  
Olivia Wen

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm. Fred welcomed participants to the third meeting of the year.

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### ***Ghost Boys* – Novel**

IMS Gr. 7 Language Arts **Core Instructional Material** for 2019-2020 and future years.

**Written by:** Jewell Parker Rhodes

**Published by:** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018

**Proposal submitted by:** IMS Gr. 7 Language Arts Team

The Gr. 7 Language Arts team wants to use this book as a comparison to another work studied in Gr. 7 Language Arts, *The Outsiders*. *Ghost Boys* is timely, as opposed to *The Outsiders*' 1960s publishing date. *Ghost Boys* also presents a non-Caucasian protagonist and strong female leads, helping to remedy a deficit in multi-cultural and female representation in Gr. 7 Language Arts material. IMS teachers who read it believe *Ghost Boys* will promote a new understanding of racial injustice in an age-appropriate matter, with a surprisingly uplifting ending. Different cultures are highlighted which dovetails nicely as the 7th graders move into their Culture project. Studying this book also presents an opportunity for officers from the Mercer Island Police Department to discuss their efforts towards racial equity.

**Vote:** Joseph Gushanas motioned to approve *Ghost Boys*, as core instructional material for IMS Gr. 7 Language Arts for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Lauren Dolby seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.