

MINUTES OF THE SECONDARY NOVEL COMMITTEE
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48
Mohave District Annex, Conference Room A/B, 8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd.,
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
December 14, 2023
5:00-7:00 PM

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:06 by Dr. Kim Dodds Keran

Attendance:

Present: Kim Dodds Keran, Shawn Crosier, Melcher Miranda, Mike Bengert, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Gail Oper, Doreen Thomas, Dan Milligan, Traci Avalos, Chad Johnson (needed to leave early), Whitney Jennings (needed to leave early), Stuart Rhoden (needed to leave early), Danielle Kesic, Jessica Winget, Laurie Jackson, Diane Murphy, Crystal Holmes

Absent: Jonna Wallis, Jill Scott, Nick Noonan, Katarina Sisic, Patricia Shaler, Brandi Brumfield, Tammy Holmberg, Becky Antioco, Tamara Jagodzinski, Kristin Tindall

Motion to approve agenda:

- Motion to approve: Chad Johnson
- Seconded by: Shawn Crosier
- Group count: Unanimous

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. The group engaged in introductions following a response pattern:
*Question: If you could take a class with any expert, who would you choose?
2. Review purpose & norms - Information
 - Reminder: Purpose of the committee is not an evaluation of a book's entertainment level; it's an evaluation of the purpose and appropriateness of utilizing books as part of curriculum
3. Schedule of meetings - Information
5:00-7:00 PM at the MDA Room A/B
January 18, 2024
February 22, 2024
April 4, 2024
May 2, 2024
4. Review of November 9, 2023 Minutes

- Motion to approve by: Dan Milligan
- Seconded by: Danielle Kesic
- Vote Count: Unanimous

5. Round 3 book presentations and recommendations - Information/Action:

Grade 12 - AP Literature: *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns:](#)

- N/A

Grade 8: *Unwind*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns:](#)

- Positive feedback heard from older students that have read the book in the past
- Popular and leads to reading the series
- Doesn't lean towards either Pro-life or Pro-choice
- Consider sensitivity to younger reader's mental health

Grade 12 - College English: *The Daily Stoic*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns](#)

- Brief discussion regarding questionable quote in book

Grade 12 - College English: *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns](#)

- Relatable for students
- Lessons in how there is creativity in everyone

Grade 7: *Nimona*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns](#)

- There is a movie made and available to watch
- Graphic novels are beneficial for struggling readers
- Excerpt currently available in middle school StudySync curriculum
- Multi-award winning "best book"

Grade 10-12 - Holocaust/Genocide: *The Birds Sang Eulogies: A Memoir*

[Questions/Comments/Concerns](#)

- N/A

6. Round 4 book assignments and small group meetings - Information:

Grade 12 (AP Literature): *First Love* by Ivan Turgenev

Grade 7: *A Boy's Story*; *A Man's Memory: Remembering the Holocaust 1933-1945* by Oskar Knoblach

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 by Dr. Kim Dodds Keran

Dated this 14th day of December 2023

DRAFT