

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
January 18, 2024
5:00-7:00 PM

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:08 by Jonna Wallis

Attendance:

Present: Mike Bengert, Brandi Brumfield, Shawn Crosier, Crystal Holmes, Tamara Jagodzinski, Whitney Jennings, Chad Johnson, Danielle Kesic, Melchor Miranda, Diane Murphy, Gail Oper, Stuart Rhoden, Doreen Thomas, Kristen Tindall, Jonna Wallis

Absent: Becky Antioco, Traci Avalos, Kim Dodds Keran, Tammy Holmberg, Laurie Jackson, Dan Milligan, Nick Noonan, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Jill Scott, Pat Shaler, Katarina Sisic, Jessica Winget

Motion to approve agenda:

- Motion to approve: Brandi Brumfield
- Seconded by: Shawn Crosier
- Vote count: Unanimous

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. The group engaged in introductions following a response pattern:
*Question: What was your New Year's resolution this year?
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
February 22, 2024
April 4, 2024
May 2, 2024

4. Review of December 14, 2023 Minutes:

Motion to amend: Doreen Thomas and Stuart Rhoden: Novel notes for *Unwind*: would like to amend discussion note: “Doesn’t lean towards either Pro-life or Pro-choice” may insinuate that it does actually lean in one direction. Would like to amend note to: “Does not discuss Pro-Life or Pro-choice” The reasoning is that the novel depicts a dystopian society that is living with resulting legislation that satisfied both sides of the conflict.

- Motion to approve amended minutes by: Whitney Jennings
- Seconded by: Danielle Kesic
- Vote Count: Unanimous

5. Round 4 book presentations and recommendations - Information/Action:

Grade 12 - AP Literature: *First Love*

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

- Is the simple language due to the original translation from the Russian language?
 - Possibly

Grade 7: *A Boy’s Story, A Man’s Memory: Remembering the Holocaust 1933-1945*

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

- Oskar Knoblauch lives local: may not still present in person because he is turning 99 this year.
- Are there other local authors that continue to present?
 - Doris Martin: Lives in Arizona
- May be a lot to process for a 7th grade student; beginning of the book may be beneficial for students for addressing the argumentative writing assignment in Unit 3 of the curriculum.
- Dry writing which may be hard for a 7th grade student to stay focused. The Conclusion is critical of Catholics; one-sided on the subject of religion; concern of planting the seed of hatred of religion
 - Would need some historical frontloading in order to properly use for critical thinking.

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

Grade 10: *The Natural* by Bernard Malamud

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM by Jonna Wallis

Dated this 18th day of January 2024