

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
August 25, 2022
5:00-7:00 PM

Attendance:

Present: Michael Bengert, Traci Avalos, Doreen Thomas, Michael Wierzbicki, Nick Noonan, Whitney Jennings, Brandi Brumfield, Becky Antioco, Stuart Rhoden, Tammy Holmberg, June Woods, Chad Johnson, Dan Milligan, John Andrews, Jonna Wallis, Diane Murphy, Kim Dodds Keran, Jill Scott, Shawn Crosier

Absent: Karina Bohn, Harry Towner, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Amy Carney, Aileen Smith, Jessica Winget, Sara Johnson, Gail Oper

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. The group engaged in introductions following a response pattern:

- A. Name
- B. Child's school or district role
- C. What is the best advice you have ever received?

2. Review purpose & norms - Information:

Explanation of the book review cycle. Discussion of how Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials process works. A comment card will be provided for small group discussion during small group rubric discussion if the novel they are reviewing is a Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials. The facilitator will share the comments after the group has shared their own comments and recommendations – it will also be shared with the whole group.

3. What is going on in Arizona? Information - HB 2495

Kim Dodds Keran led this discussion. The group read and discussed this legislation. This legislation will take effect 09/24/2022. How does this affect books approved last year? The committee tended not to approve novels that had explicit sexual content. This legislation applies across all content areas as Arizona is an abstinence-only state. What constitutes “early American literature?” Does this legislation specify an age? It addresses public school students K-12. SUSD is currently working on incorporating an electronic system through Synergy to obtain parental consent. Must be on a “per-material” basis. Kim will ask a legal representative to talk to the committee at the October 6th meeting to clarify any further questions.

4. Schedule of upcoming whole-group meetings - Information: 5-7 PM at the MDA Room A/B

October 6, 2022

November 17, 2022

January 5, 2023

February 16, 2023

March 23, 2023

April 27, 2023

5. Round 1 book assignments and small group meetings - Information:

Grade 6: *Freedom Walkers* by Russell Freedman

Grade 7: *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Grade 9: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

AP Language & Composition: *Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

AP Language & Composition: *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls

Grade 11 & Dual Enrollment: *Columbine* by Dave Cullen

AP Language & Composition: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

6. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Dated this 25th day of August 2022