

**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
October 6, 2022 5:00-7:00 PM**

Attendance:

Present: Karina Bohn, Harry Towner, Traci Avalos, Doreen Thomas, Michael Wierzbicki, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Whitney Jennings, Amy Carney, Randi Brumfield, Stuart Rhoden, Jessica Winget, Tammy Holmberg, Chad Johnson, Sara Johnson, Dan Milligan, John Andrews, Jonna Wallis, Diane Murphy, Kim Dodds Keran, Jill Scott, Shawn Crosier, Gail Oper

Absent: Michael Bengert, Nick Noonan, Becky Antioco, Theresa Byro, Olivia (June) Woods

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2022 – Action:

Motion by: Kim Dodds Keran

Seconded by: Stuart Rhoden

Vote Count: The motion was approved 20-0.

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

What was your favorite book when you were a child?

3. Review purpose & norms - Information:

Review of the book cycle review.

Jennifer MacLennan, Scottsdale Unified District Counsel, met with the committee to review A.R.S. Section 15-120.02 (HB 2495). Questions to consider when evaluating a novel for classroom instructional purposes: Is it a classic? When evaluating it for literary or artistic value: Has it won awards? Excerpts from novels – such as what can be found in the district adopted curriculum – without sexually explicit content do not fall under this law. Book report lists/book lists – teachers must have read and know the content of the books on the list. More communication between teachers and their students' parents will enhance a trusting, working relationship. Teachers may post novel lists that may contain sexually explicit materials which are recommended from an organization such as College Board which may appear on upcoming assessments but not assign those specific novels without prior parental approval. Jennifer will be attending an upcoming librarian meeting to discuss new legislation specific to public school libraries.

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

November 17, 2022

January 5, 2023

February 16, 2023

March 23, 2023

April 27, 2023

5. Revision of Question #6 on Scoring Rubric – Information/Action

The original question on the scoring rubric is worded: *Does this novel meet the provision of HB 2495? Yes/No*

Some options that were presented included:

1. Do you feel this novel contains sexually explicit content according to HB 2495?
2. Should this novel be excluded from use based on HB 2495?
3. Based on HB 2495, should this novel be required to have parents opt in for their students to read it?

It was suggested to combine #1 and #3: Do you feel this novel contains sexually explicit content and should be required to have parents opt in for their students to read it?

6. Small Group Novel Presentations and Recommendations – Information/Action:

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

7. Round 2 book assignments and small group meetings – Information:

Grade 6: *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Grade 7: *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry

Grade 8: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass

Grade 11: *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley

AP Us History – Grade 11: *How to Hide an Empire* by Daniel Immerwahr

AP Language & Composition: *The Lost City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston

AP Language & Composition: *Educated* by Tara Westover

6. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Dated this 6th day of October 2022