

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
November 17, 2022 5:00-7:00 PM

Attendance:

Present: Michael Bengert, Karina Bohn, Harry Towner, Traci Avalos, Doreen Thomas, Michael Wierzbicki, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Becky Antioco, Stuart Rhoden, Theresa Byro, Jessica Winget, Tammy Holmberg, June Woods, Chad Johnson, Sara Johnson, Dan Milligan, Jonna Wallis, Diane Murphy, Kim Dodds Keran, Jill Scott, Shawn Crosier, Gail Oper

Absent: Nick Noonan, Whitney Jennings, Amy Carney, Brandi Brumfield, John Andrews

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2022 – Action:
Motion by: Doreen Thomas
Seconded by: Tammy Holmberg
Vote Count: The motion was approved 18-0
2. Introductions: Profession: Dentist
What would be the worst thing a person in this profession could say?
Group members shared out their responses using a “whip around” protocol.
3. Review purpose & norms - Information
4. Schedule of upcoming whole-group meetings - Information: 5-7 PM at the MDA Room A/B
January 5, 2023
February 16, 2023
March 23, 2023
April 27, 2023
5. Should the results of the recommendations for novels be included in the minutes or as a separate document? – Information/Action
Kim Dodds Keran: Point to think about - Community members can log-in and see the committee’s decision, but it has not gone to the Governing Board for final approval.
It was recommended that the minutes should contain a listing of the novels being reviewed, but don’t include the results of recommendations. Instead, send a separate email to committee members with the results of novel recommendations.
Michael Bengert expressed concern that the public would not have access to the list of novels that the committee is reviewing. Kim Dodds Keran said that 24 hours prior to the presentation to the Governing Board of the committee’s recommendations, this information will be shared with the public. Also, the recommendations of the small novel groups are available for public viewing on the Secondary Novel Review Committee page on the SUSD website. The power point presentation for each committee meeting is posted on this page after each meeting.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (Information): Sheila Cepress, Native American Ed. Program Coordinator, read this novel and provided the following input: The

language was uncomfortable for her as she read the novel. However, the situation the protagonist is in, is realistic for a young Native American. Theresa Byro (new to group – replacing Jordan Smith) added that even though there is uncomfortable language, it is a very realistic situation.

The Glass Castle (Information): Jessica Winget recommended only for use in AP Language and Composition as a free choice. She is concerned that it is also listed for 11th grade. She would not approve as an all-class read. She feels that there is an issue with the level of abuse in the novel. This is a yellow novel – opt-in only and will not be used for whole-class instruction. Tammy Holmberg reiterated that because this is recommended as a yellow novel, there will be site administration oversight. June Woods pointed out that yellow novels allow students and their parents to make the decision whether or not to read the novel.

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

Grade 6: *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan – This is already an approved novel for grade five.

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

Grade 8: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass – This is already an approved novel for grade eleven.

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

AP U.S. 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

7. Round 3 book assignments and small group meetings – Information:

Grade 6: *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* by Russell Freedman

Grade 7: *Barrio Boy* by Ernesto Galarza

Grade 8: *Ten Days in a Mad-House* by Nellie Bly

Grades 10-12 Holocaust/Genocide Class: *Kiss Every Step* by Doris Martin

AP Language & Composition: *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore

AP Language & Composition/Grade 11: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

Grades 9-10 Science: *Double Helix* by Nancy Werlin

6. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Dated this 17th day of November 2022