

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE SECONDARY NOVEL COMMITTEE
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48
Mohave Middle School Library, 8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale, AZ
85250
January 5, 2023 5:00-7:00 PM

Attendance:

Present: Diane Murphy, Harry Towner, Michael Wierzbicki, Jonna Wallis, Karina Bohn, Traci Avalos, Whitney Jennings, Jill Scott, Michael Bengert, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Kim Dodds Keran, Pat Shaler, Amy Carney (10-15 minutes), Theresa Byro, Shawn Crosier, Sara Johnson, Gail Oper, Tammy Holmberg, Becky Antioco

Absent: Nick Noonan, Doreen Thomas, Chad Johnson, Brandi Brumfield, Jessica Winget, Stuart Rhoden, John Andrews, June Woods, Dan Milligan

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2022 – Action:

Motion by: Shawn Crosier

Seconded by: Jill Scott

Vote Count: Everyone

No comment re: 11.17.22 minutes.

2. Introductions:

What's Next? The first person starts with any word they wish, but just one, such as "chocolate." The next person has to add a word that is associated with that word, such as "chip." This continues quickly, with each person adding just one word.

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
February 16, 2023
March 23, 2023
April 27, 2023

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

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

Comments: All in this book group loved the book.

Is lesbian affair addressed? Vague innuendo only.

No further comments.

Grade 7: *Barrio Boy* by Ernesto Galarza

Comments: Book may not hold readers' attention.

Will you include your recommendation if book is approved?

Just because we approve it doesn't mean it would be chosen to purchase.

If we want kids to get excited, why would we bother with a book that isn't a page-turner?

Just because it's a boring book, doesn't mean it shouldn't be recommended.
I taught with this book in the past. There is still value in the book.
It is how the teacher presents the book that determines the interest level of most students.
If the teacher is engaged with the book, students are more likely to appreciate it.

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

Comments: Are you not recommending because of style and language?
Book was brutal to get through. Not in favor. At all.
Book is available online, could use just chosen pieces.
Connection with teaching.
Benefits of teaching with older books.

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

Comments: Only story about Holocaust where the entire family survived.
Questioning why it would be optional to send a parent letter.
Explain rape portion? Answer: Not graphic at all.
What gave them the source of hope? Answer: It was about hope and miracles.

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

Comments: Why need a parent letter re: teen pregnancy?
Explanation is that letters are sent if book could lead to arousal. Was not implicit.
Could use blanket letter for parents. Teacher wants to use the book for AP Lang.

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

Comments: How does the teacher want to use this book? Answer: Unsure.
Questions about triggers.
Way too many red flags.
Great independent read, but not recommended for school.
Not productive for teaching.

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

Comments: So thrilled.
Good way to stimulate a real life conversation.

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

Grade 7: *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* by Jim Murphy

Grade 7: *The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* by Farah Ahmed (with Tamim Ansary)

Grade 8: *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

Grades 10-12 Holocaust/Genocide Class: *A Holocaust Memoir of Love & Resilience: Mama's Survival from Lithuania to America* by Etti Zilber

AP Language & Composition: *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs

Grade 10: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs

Grade 12: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain

6. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM

Dated this 5th day of January 2023

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