

District Instructional Materials Committee (DIMC)

June 3, 2025
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
District Conference Room 221

Welcome and Introductions | Dr. Jon Stadler

Dr. Stadler called the meeting to order at 16:05.

Attendees

Committee Member	Role	In Attendance
Alyx Chamberlain	Primary Teacher	
Bob Ettinger, Ed.L.D.	Department of Learning and Teaching	X
Cameron Stadler	Student	X
Carlee Wyatt	Elementary Assistant Principal	X
Greyson Bush	Student	
Jala Rivera	Student	X
Jen Pinkowski	Special Education Facilitator	X
Jimmy Tran	Student	X
Jon Stadler, Ed.D.	Chair	X
Jordyn Soriano	Student	
Julia Buller	Intermediate Teacher	X
Kevin Smith	Department of Learning and Teaching	X
Michelle Le	Middle School Teacher, Language Arts	X
Mike McCarron	Librarian	Abs, vote emailed
Sheila Redick	Human Resources	Abs, vote emailed
Stefanie McIrvine, Ed.D.	Renton School Board Member	X
Stephen Rencher, Ed.D.	Middle School Principal	X
Susan Talley	Renton School Board Member	X
Thomas Caudle	High School Principal	X
Trina Gratrix	High School Teacher, Math	X
Yohaly Barragan-Mazon	Student	X
Secretary		
Megan Farmer	Parent	X

Quorum Report

17/21 members are present. 2 members were unable to attend. Both reviewed the materials sent and submitted their responses and votes ahead of time and are incorporated within these minutes. Quorum is met. Simple majority carries a vote at this meeting.

Purpose of Evening | Dr. Stadler

Overview of three main roles this committee serves. The Committee was called together in response to a request for reconsideration of instructional resources, received on May 21, 2025. Notice calling the committee together and meeting date/time was sent on May 22, 2025. The request for reconsideration (Form 2020F) was emailed to committee members on May 28, 2025, along with the adoption history for the curriculum in question.

Curriculum requested for reconsideration: Units of Study (K-5)

Materials Review

Submitted request, background document, and literacy materials that support elementary ELA curriculum were shared via a Google Drive which all members have access to. Time to explore materials and engage in small group discussions was given.

Group Discussion

Explanations of elementary specifics, such as decodable texts, were answered. Note that Washington State law dictates that English is the language we teach to and sets the ELA learning standards used statewide. While it is important to meet the needs of our multilingual students, we must adhere to the standards set by the State of Washington.

Notices that the request calls for evidence-based curriculum pulls from a podcast as “evidence” and does not provide any actual data. Question of what data does exist. Newest curriculum and supports have only been in place for two years. Since the implementation of the updated curriculum, preliminary data shows upward movement in ELA scores across the district with grade clusters growing as expected. 2021 studies found that test scores continued to rise year after year in schools that implemented the program, again prior to current curriculum. Research informed the design and writing of the curriculum. The K-2 literacy review committee engaged in learning about research-based instructional practices before reviewing the 2023 units.

Wonderings whether the most current curriculum, Units of Study, supplements, and supports have been used by educators requesting the reconsideration, and which version is being referenced in the request for reconsideration. Newer curriculum address issues identified in “Science of Reading” concerns. Verbiage cited does not appear in current resources on Canvas and request does not make connections to Heggerty, Morpheme Magic, or supporting resources developed by facilitators in response to previous findings. Discussion on whether new curriculum would meet the objections submitted or a change in communication, training, and instruction methodology is needed.

Inquiries regarding the breadth of concern and impact of change. With 16 elementary schools teaching 6 grades, there’s a rough approximate of 300 classrooms that will be impacted. Do we have any information on the number of educators with concerns? Middle school educators share that they also use Units of Study and rely heavily on foundations built in elementary. High schools are also using a Units of Study model, dependent upon their middle schools. Vertical alignment impact K-12 need to be considered.

The reconsideration requests that the curriculum be removed but doesn’t offer any solutions. As submitted, the Units of Study curriculum would be pulled from all elementaries without new curriculum in place to be used. Wonderings on what that means for supplemental curriculum and supports that have been built and whether they’d be able to be used without Units of Study. Elementary Concerns that the district will not be able to meaningful support our students and educators if the existing curriculum and resources are pulled.

Question as to likelihood of ELA curriculum coming up for adoption soon. The district is on a robust 7-year cycle with 3-4 subjects slotted for review each year. The next ELA review would have already occurred. However, new curriculum adoption is not currently in the budget for next school year. The state is currently reviewing ELA core standards and updating ELA-related resources with professional learning slated for next year and full implementation in schools 2026-2027.

There is no perfect curriculum. For example, UFLI implementation experience was shared as the curriculum did not come with robust training, resulting in mixed views of the curriculum. Needs for supports and supplements have

already been noted in other literacy curriculum. Examples, again, point to the need for a shift in developing comprehensive blocks of learning for maximum student impact rather than trying to pick and choose curriculum that will never be able meet everyone's needs.

Determination that no further information or input is needed. Request to call the vote.

Vote

The request for reconsideration is to remove the Units of Study curriculum from elementary schools. Voting Yes means remove curriculum, No means keep curriculum. 0/19.

Request for removal fails, Units of Study will remain the district adopted curriculum for ELA K-5.

Next Steps

Dr. Stadler will prepare a written response sharing the findings and outcome of this review with the requestor.

Closing Notes

Thank you for your commitment and giving your time to better the educational experiences of our youth this year. An extra thank you to those ending 3-year terms and our graduating students, your service to our schools and students has been invaluable.

Next Meeting will be announced in the fall once the committee members are established.

Adjournment Dr. Stadler adjourned the meeting at 17:00.